My Little Monster

Robico

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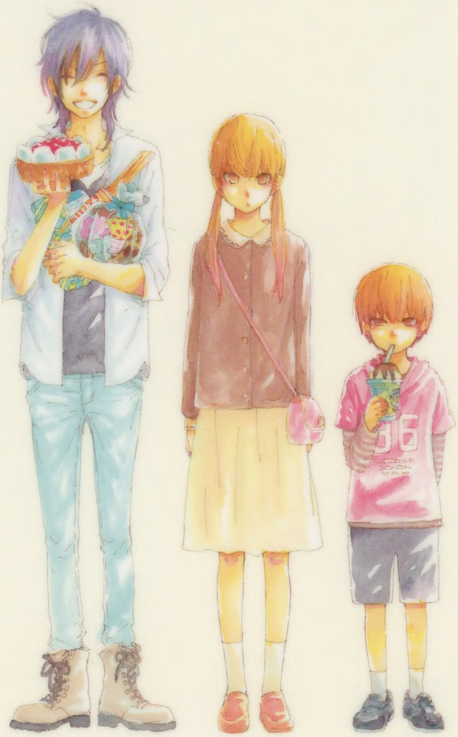
BROTHER'S BASH

Yuzan is having a birthday party and it is imperative that Haru attend. It's not so much that Yuzan wants Haru to be there as it is a demand from their father. The Yoshida family requires certain appearances to be kept and Haru being at the party will show that the family is together and not the actual mess that it is. But attending the party comes with great challenges. Haru may combust when he feels that attempts are being made to control him.

Includes special extras after the story!



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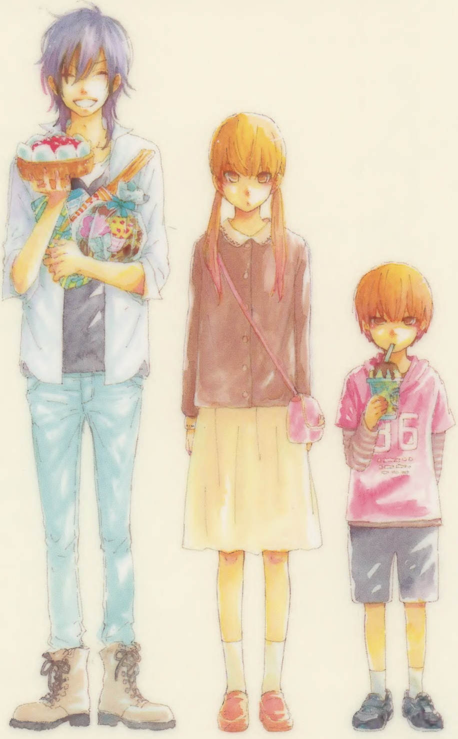

My Little Monster

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Robico

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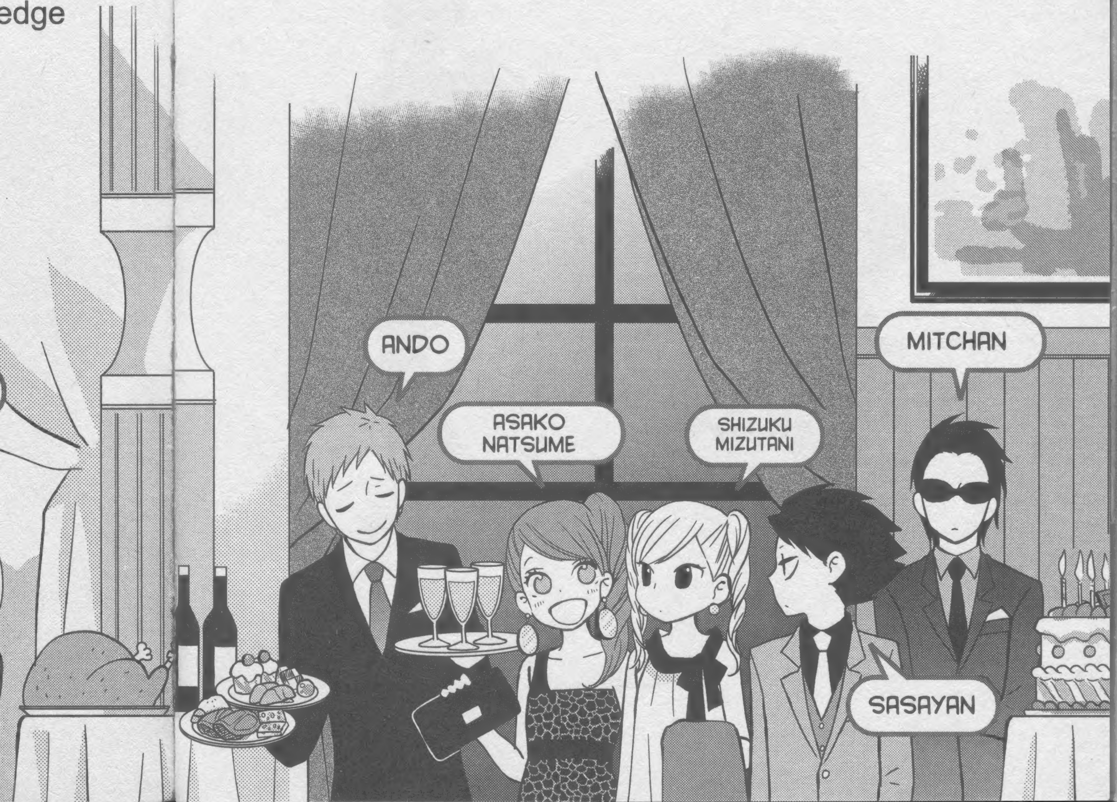
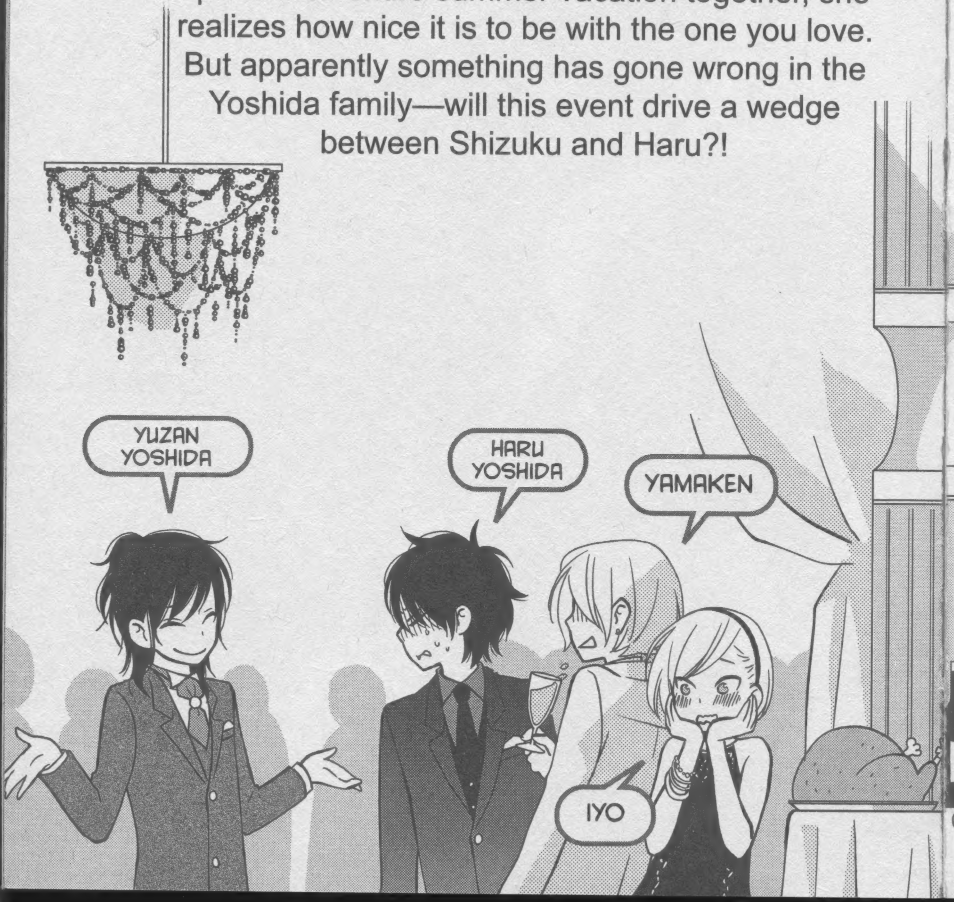

ANDO
MITCHAN
ASAKO NATSUME
SHIZUKU MIZUTANI
SASAYAN

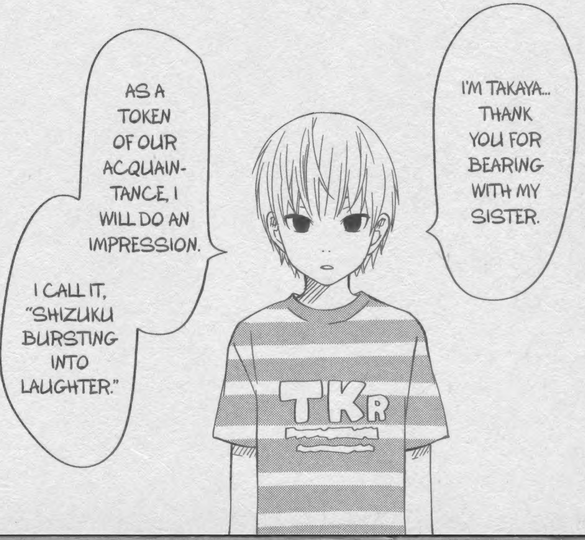
STORY

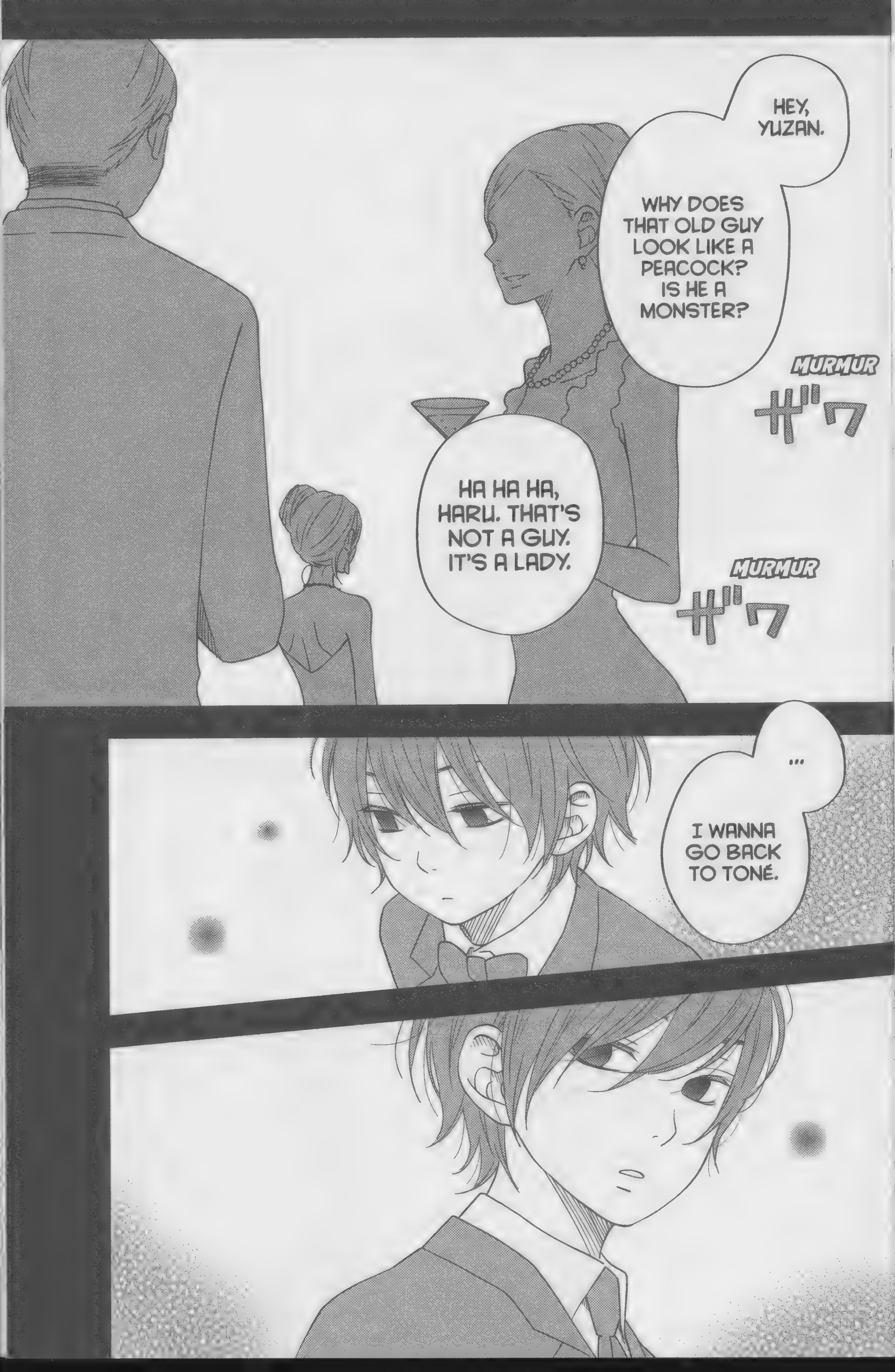
When Shizuku Mizutani does a favor for problem child Haru Yoshida, who sat next to her in school, he develops a huge crush on her. Attracted to his innocence, she eventually falls for him, too, but when she asks him out, he inexplicably turns her down. After that, the couple repeatedly fail to find themselves on the same page as they eventually move on to their second year of high school. Now Haru has confessed his love, and the two are finally an official couple. At first, Shizuku doesn't really feel like anything is different, but as they spend their entire summer vacation together, she realizes how nice it is to be with the one you love. But apparently something has gone wrong in the Yoshida family—will this event drive a wedge between Shizuku and Haru?!



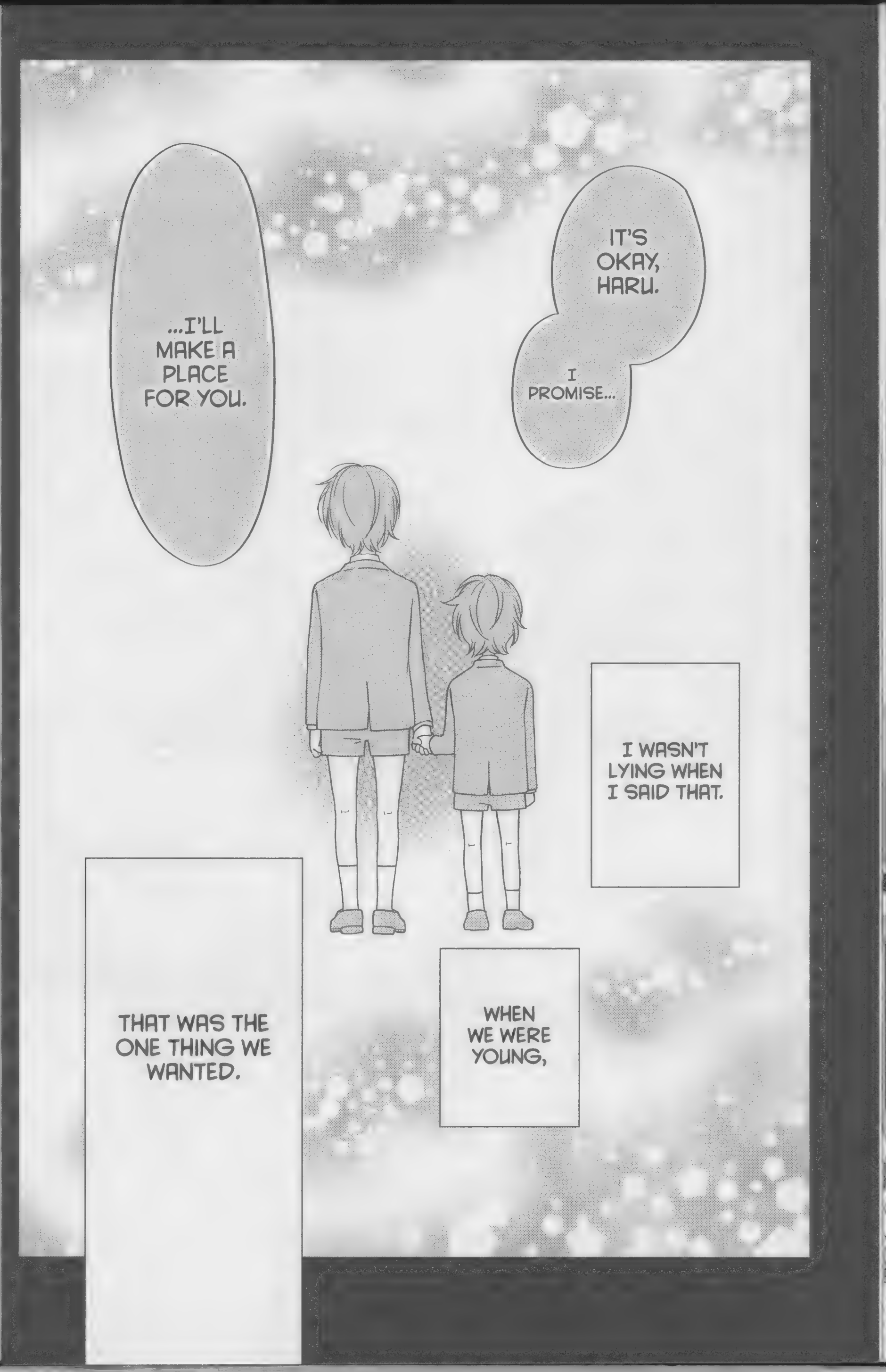
CHAPTER 37: THE YUZAN-SAN STORY

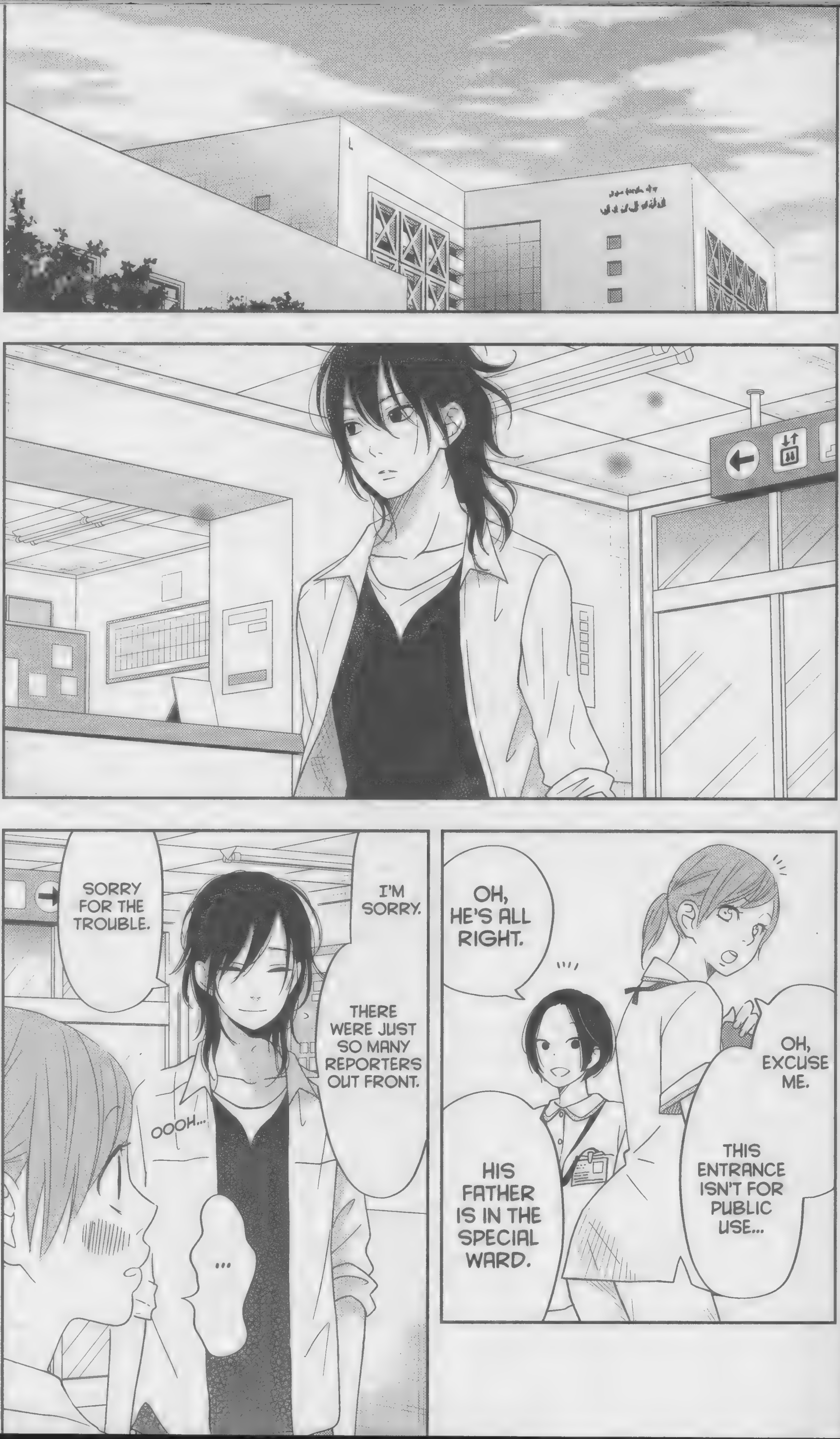
MURMUR

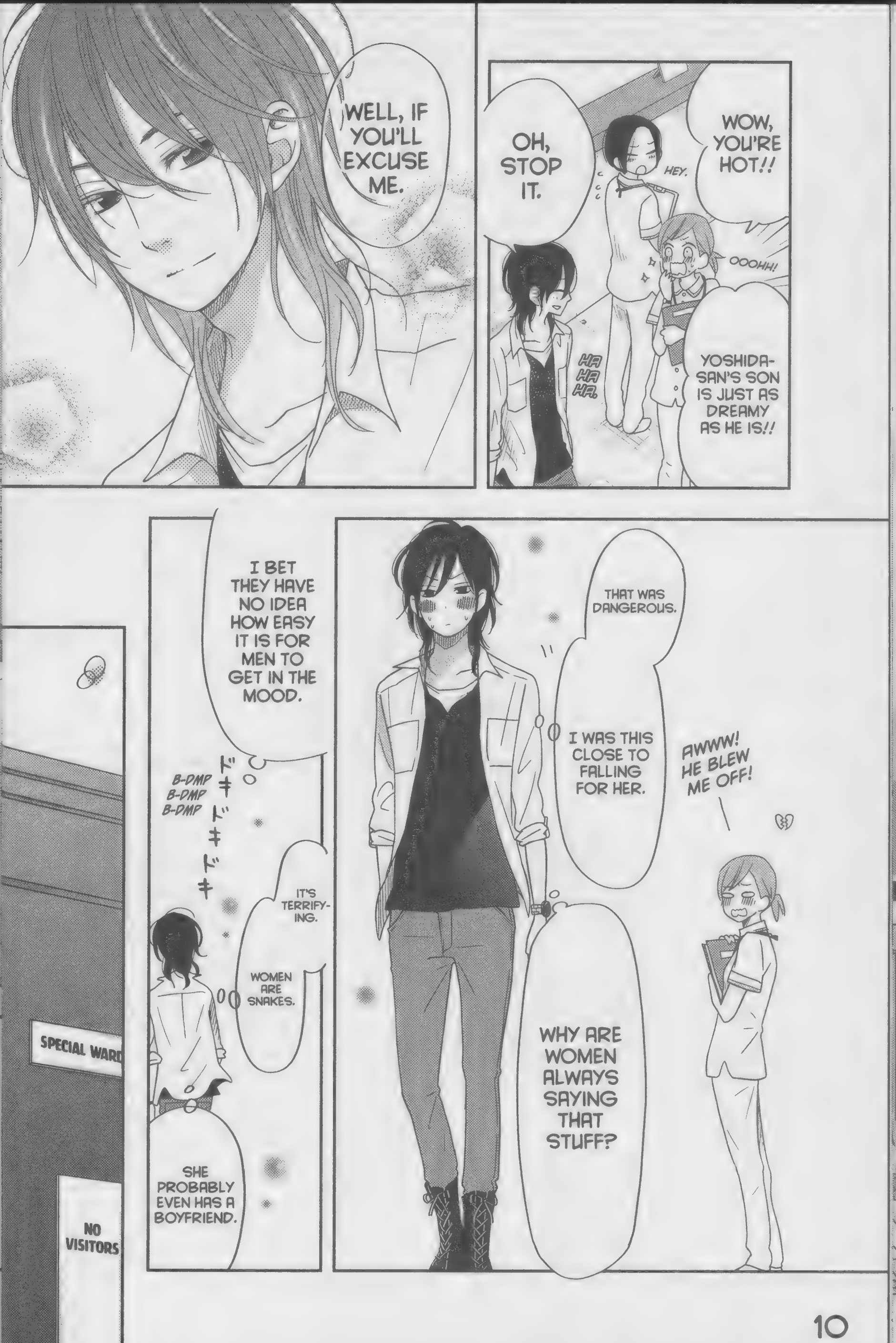

I'M TAKAYA... THANK YOU FOR BEARING WITH MY SISTER.
AS A TOKEN OF OUR ACQUAINTANCE, I WILL DO AN IMPRESSION.
I CALL IT, "SHIZUKU BURSTING INTO LAUGHTER."
TKR

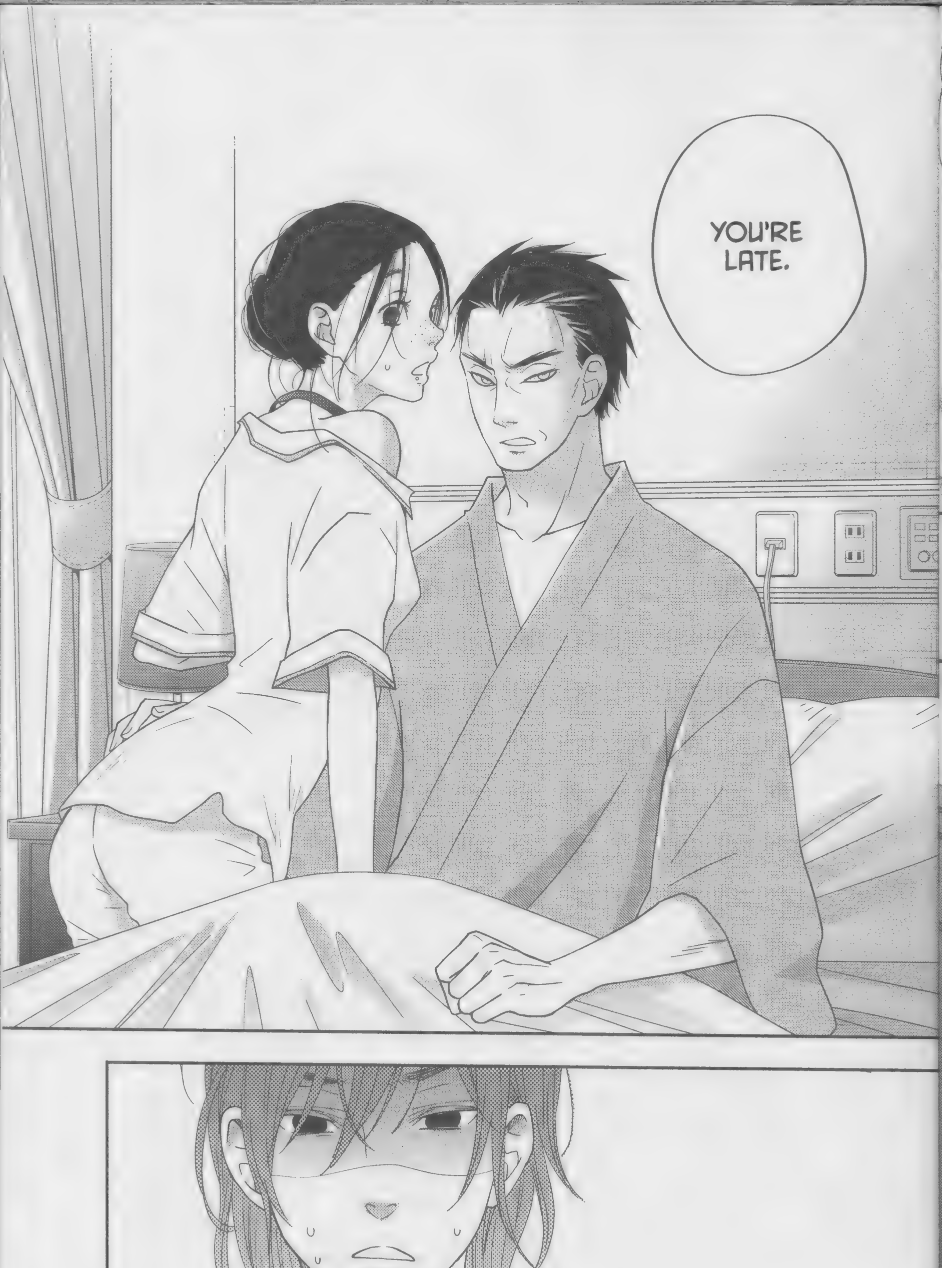

HEY, YUZAN.
WHY DOES THAT OLD GUY LOOK LIKE A PEACOCK? IS HE A MONSTER?
MURMUR
ザワ
HA HA HA, HARU. THAT'S NOT A GUY. IT'S A LADY.
MURMUR
ザワ
...
I WANNA GO BACK TO TONÉ.

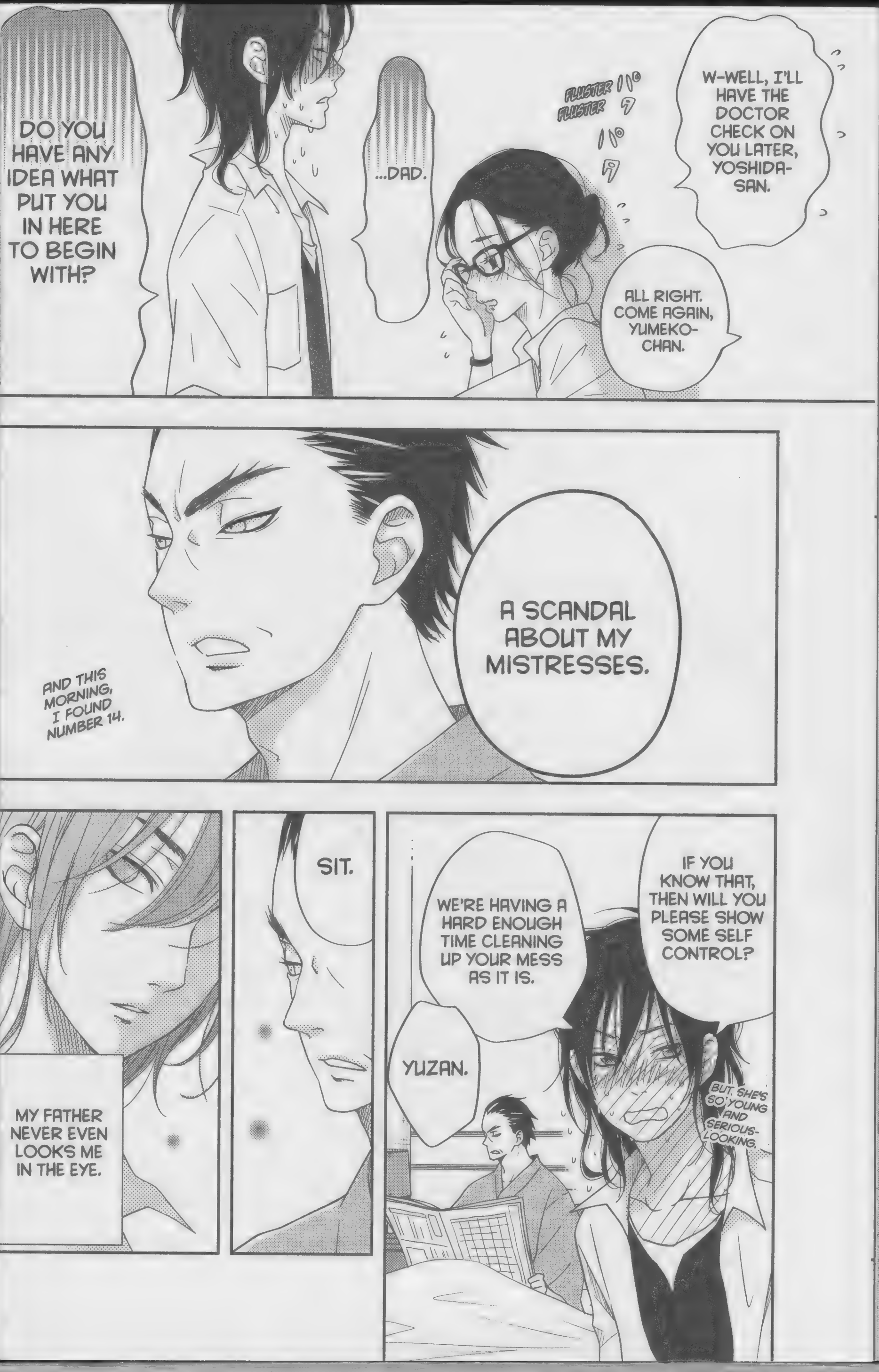
OH,
XCUSE
ME.
CE
OR


IT'S OKAY, HARU.
I PROMISE...
...I'LL MAKE A PLACE FOR YOU.
I WASN'T LYING WHEN I SAID THAT.
WHEN WE WERE YOUNG,
THAT WAS THE ONE THING WE WANTED.

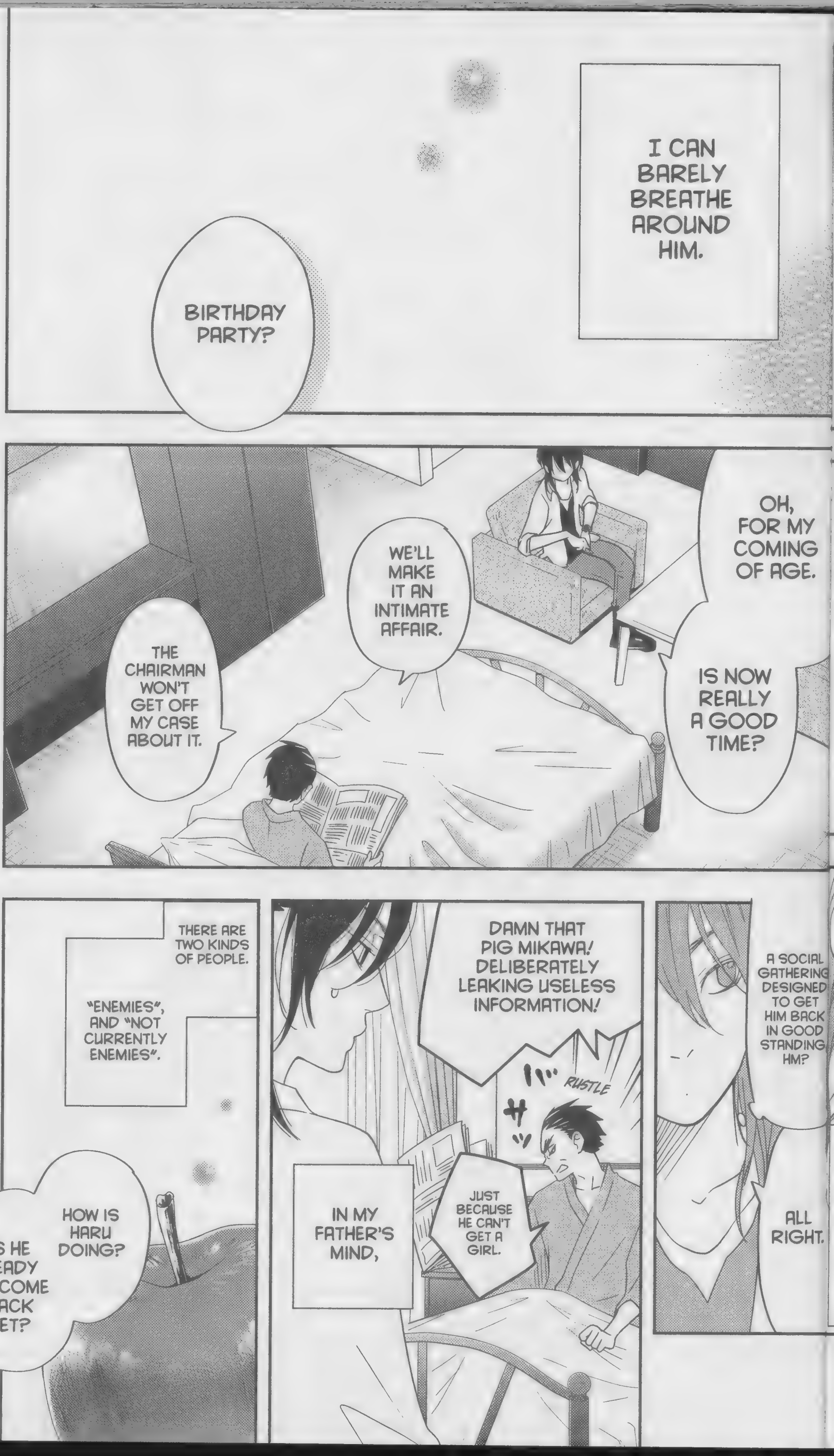

OH, EXCUSE ME.
THIS ENTRANCE ISN'T FOR PUBLIC USE...
OH, HE'S ALL RIGHT.
HIS FATHER IS IN THE SPECIAL WARD.
I'M SORRY.
SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE.
THERE WERE JUST SO MANY REPORTERS OUT FRONT.
OOOH...
...

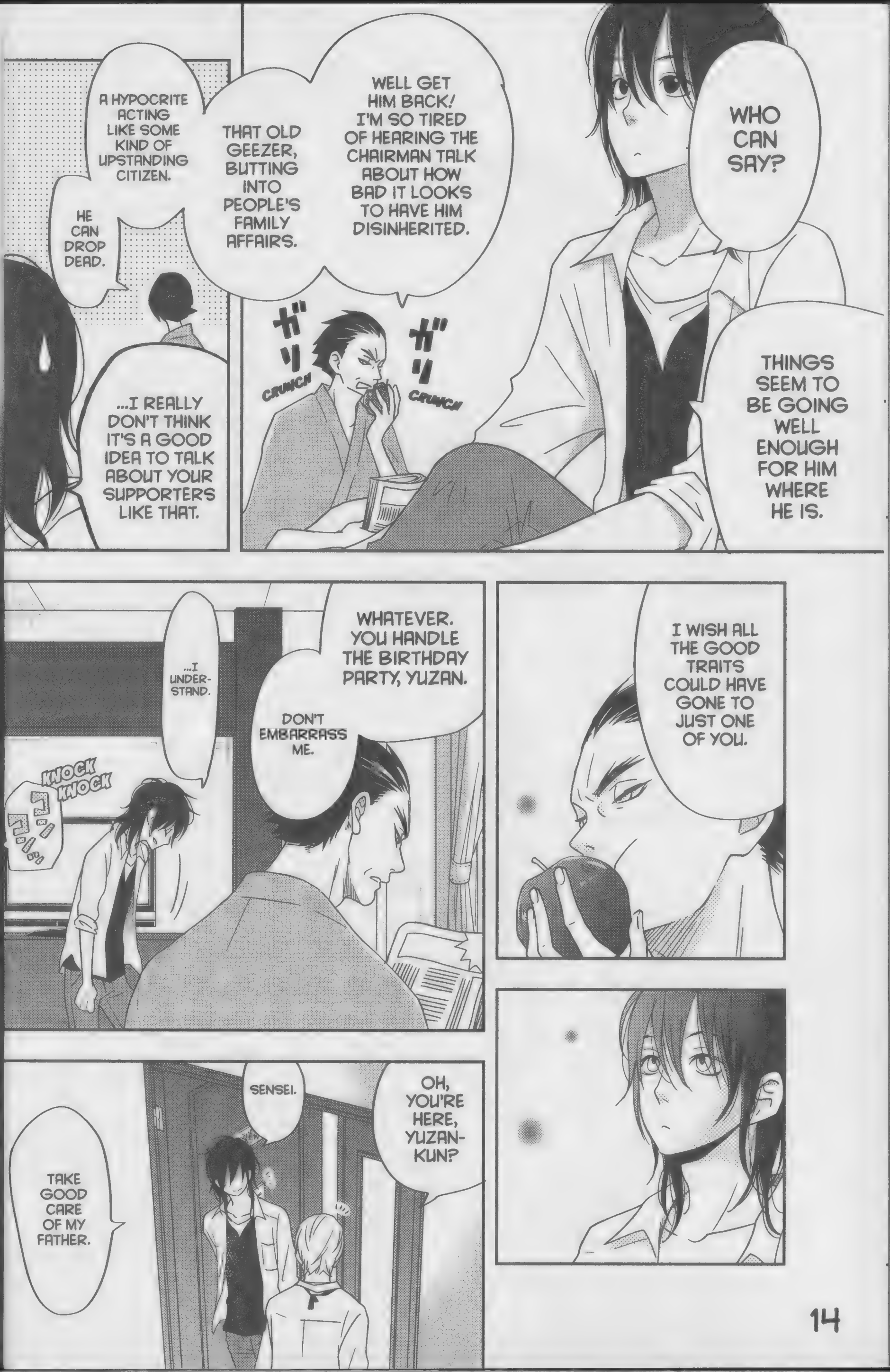

WOW, YOU'RE HOT!!
HEY.
OOOHH!
YOSHIDA-SAN'S SON IS JUST AS DREAMY AS HE IS!!
OH, STOP IT.
HA HA HA.
WELL, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.
AWWW! HE BLEW ME OFF!
THAT WAS DANGEROUS.
I WAS THIS CLOSE TO FALLING FOR HER.
WHY ARE WOMEN ALWAYS SAYING THAT STUFF?
I BET THEY HAVE NO IDEA HOW EASY IT IS FOR MEN TO GET IN THE MOOD.
ドキドキドキ
B-DMP B-DMP B-DMP
IT'S TERRIFYING.
WOMEN ARE SNAKES.
SHE PROBABLY EVEN HAS A BOYFRIEND.
SPECIAL WARD
NO VISITORS

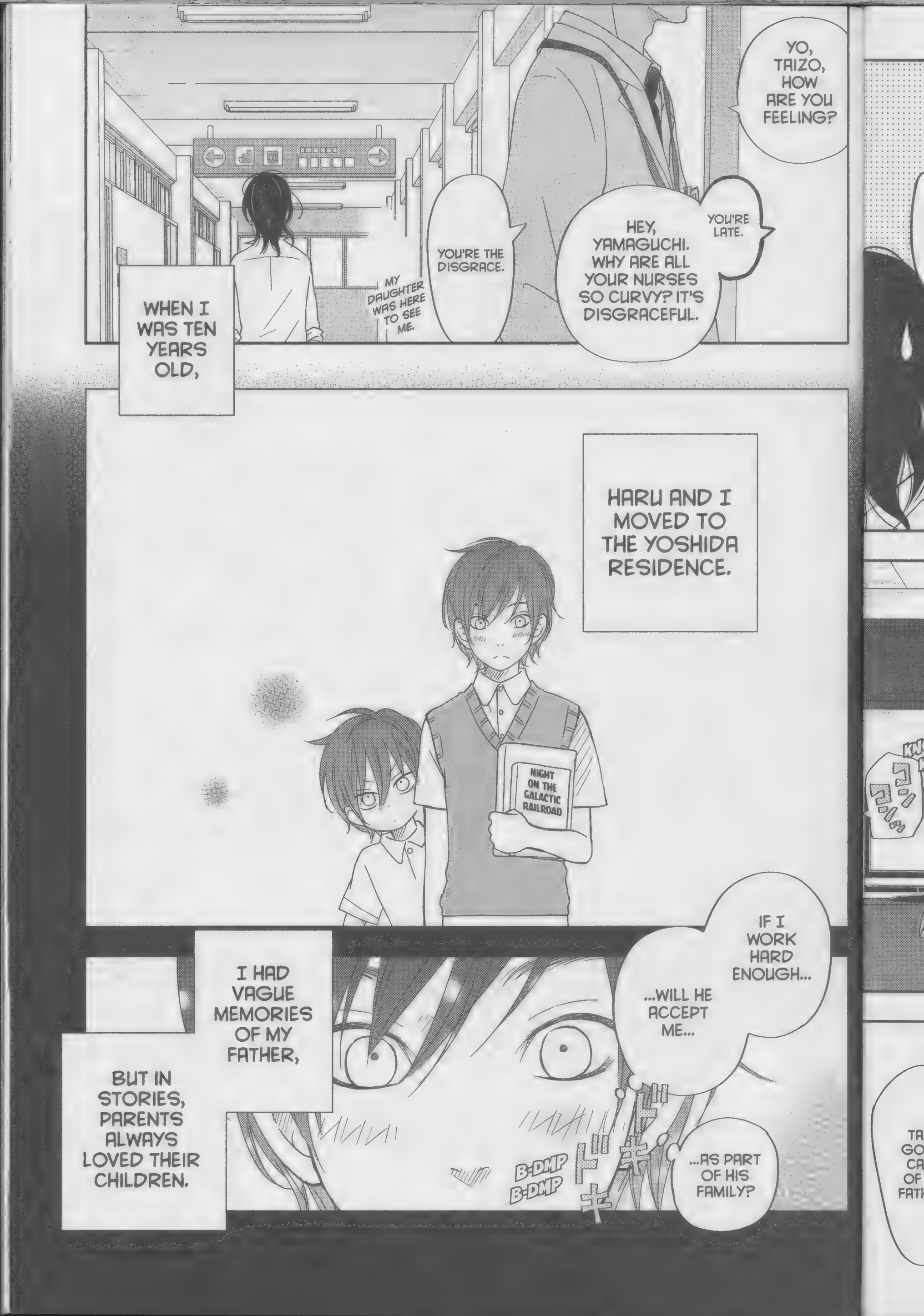

YOU'RE LATE.

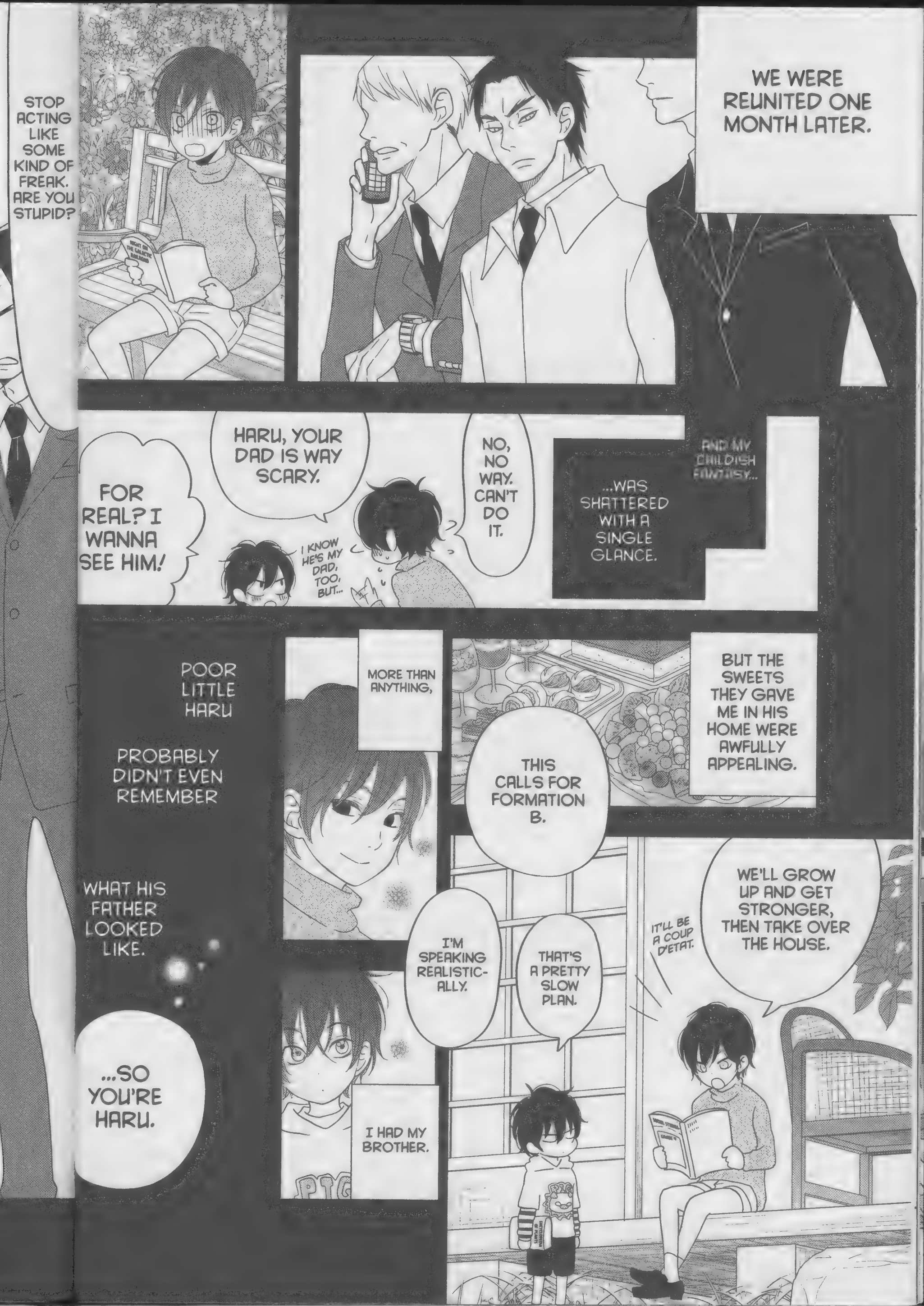

W-WELL, I'LL HAVE THE DOCTOR CHECK ON YOU LATER, YOSHIDA-SAN.
FLUSTER FLUSTER
ALL RIGHT. COME AGAIN, YUMEKO-CHAN.
...DAD.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT PUT YOU IN HERE TO BEGIN WITH?
A SCANDAL ABOUT MY MISTRESSES.
AND THIS MORNING, I FOUND NUMBER 14.
IF YOU KNOW THAT, THEN WILL YOU PLEASE SHOW SOME SELF CONTROL?
BUT, SHE'S SO YOUNG AND SERIOUS-LOOKING.
WE'RE HAVING A HARD ENOUGH TIME CLEANING UP YOUR MESS AS IT IS.
YUZAN.
SIT.
MY FATHER NEVER EVEN LOOKS ME IN THE EYE.
ALL RIGHT.

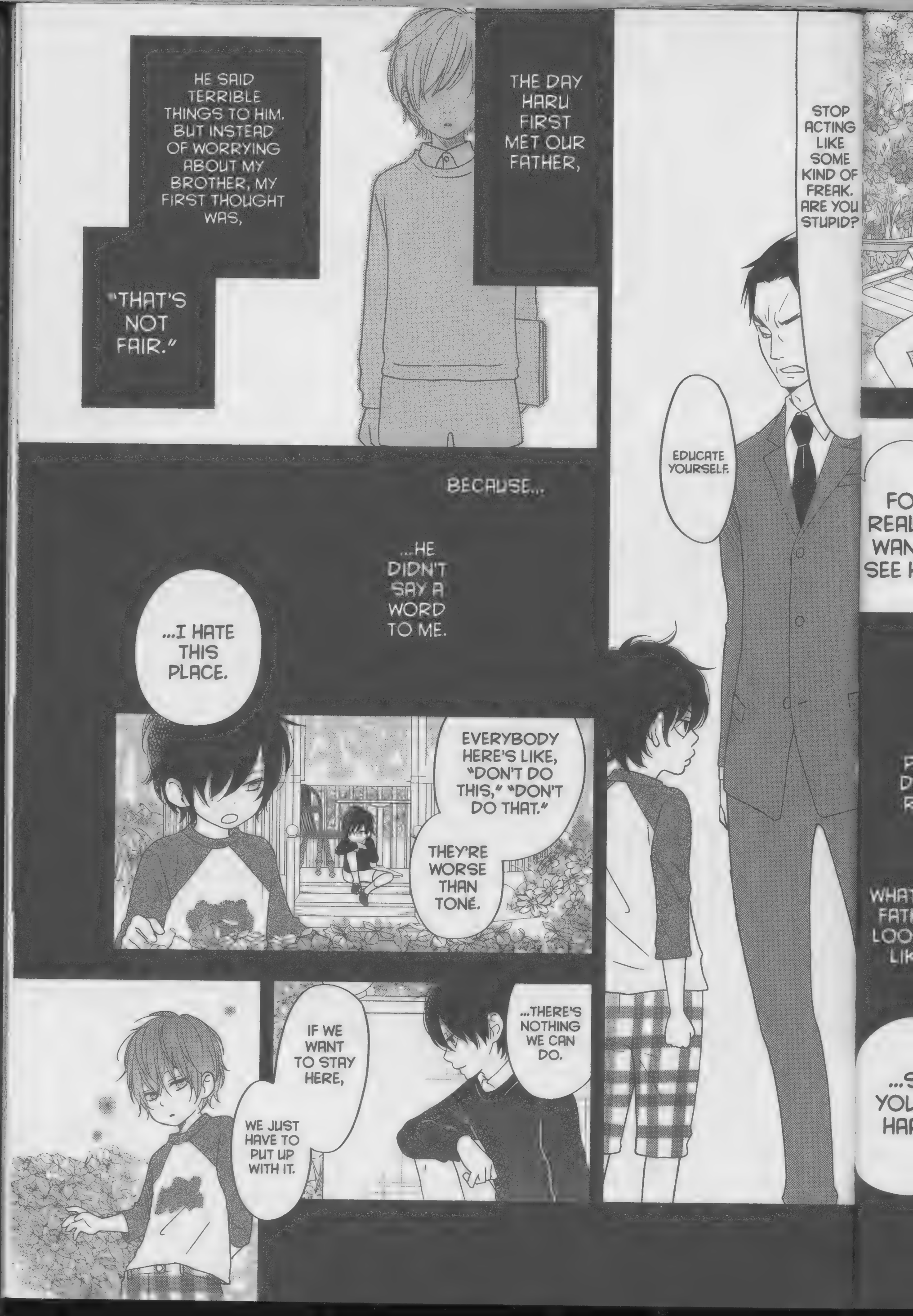
OH, FOR MY COMING OF AGE.
A SOCIAL GATHERING DESIGNED TO GET HIM BACK IN GOOD STANDING HM?


I CAN BARELY BREATHE AROUND HIM.
BIRTHDAY PARTY?
OH, FOR MY COMING OF AGE.
IS NOW REALLY A GOOD TIME?
WE'LL MAKE IT AN INTIMATE AFFAIR.
THE CHAIRMAN WON'T GET OFF MY CASE ABOUT IT.
A SOCIAL GATHERING DESIGNED TO GET HIM BACK IN GOOD STANDING, HM?
ALL RIGHT.
DAMN THAT PIG MIKAWA! DELIBERATELY LEAKING USELESS INFORMATION!
RUSTLE
JUST BECAUSE HE CAN'T GET A GIRL.
IN MY FATHER'S MIND,
THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE.
"ENEMIES", AND "NOT CURRENTLY ENEMIES".
HOW IS HARU DOING?
IS HE READY TO COME BACK YET?


WHO CAN SAY?
THINGS SEEM TO BE GOING WELL ENOUGH FOR HIM WHERE HE IS.
WELL GET HIM BACK! I'M SO TIRED OF HEARING THE CHAIRMAN TALK ABOUT HOW BAD IT LOOKS TO HAVE HIM DISINHERITED.
THAT OLD GEEZER, BUTTING INTO PEOPLE'S FAMILY AFFAIRS.
ガリ CRUNCH
ガリ CRUNCH
A HYPOCRITE ACTING LIKE SOME KIND OF UPSTANDING CITIZEN.
HE CAN DROP DEAD.
...I REALLY DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO TALK ABOUT YOUR SUPPORTERS LIKE THAT.
I WISH ALL THE GOOD TRAITS COULD HAVE GONE TO JUST ONE OF YOU.
WHATEVER. YOU HANDLE THE BIRTHDAY PARTY, YUZAN.
DON'T EMBARRASS ME.
...I UNDERSTAND.
KNOCK KNOCK
OH, YOU'RE HERE, YUZAN-KUN?
SENSEI.
TAKE GOOD CARE OF MY FATHER.


YO, TAIZO, HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
YOU'RE LATE.
HEY, YAMAGUCHI. WHY ARE ALL YOUR NURSES SO CURVY? IT'S DISGRACEFUL.
YOU'RE THE DISGRACE.
MY DAUGHTER WAS HERE TO SEE ME.
WHEN I WAS TEN YEARS OLD,
HARU AND I MOVED TO THE YOSHIDA RESIDENCE.
NIGHT ON THE GALACTIC RAILROAD
IF I WORK HARD ENOUGH...
...WILL HE ACCEPT ME...
...AS PART OF HIS FAMILY?
B-DMP B-DMP
ドキドキ
I HAD VAGUE MEMORIES OF MY FATHER,
BUT IN STORIES, PARENTS ALWAYS LOVED THEIR CHILDREN.


WE WERE REUNITED ONE MONTH LATER.
STOP ACTING LIKE SOME KIND OF FREAK. ARE YOU STUPID?
AND MY CHILDISH FANTASY...
...WAS SHATTERED WITH A SINGLE GLANCE.
NO, NO WAY. CAN'T DO IT.
I KNOW HE'S MY DAD, TOO, BUT...
HARU, YOUR DAD IS WAY SCARY.
FOR REAL? I WANNA SEE HIM!
BUT THE SWEETS THEY GAVE ME IN HIS HOME WERE AWFULLY APPEALING.
MORE THAN ANYTHING,
THIS CALLS FOR FORMATION B.
WE'LL GROW UP AND GET STRONGER, THEN TAKE OVER THE HOUSE.
IT'LL BE A COUP D'ETAT.
THAT'S A PRETTY SLOW PLAN.
I'M SPEAKING REALISTICALLY.
I HAD MY BROTHER.
POOR LITTLE HARU
PROBABLY DIDN'T EVEN REMEMBER
WHAT HIS FATHER LOOKED LIKE.
...SO YOU'RE HARU.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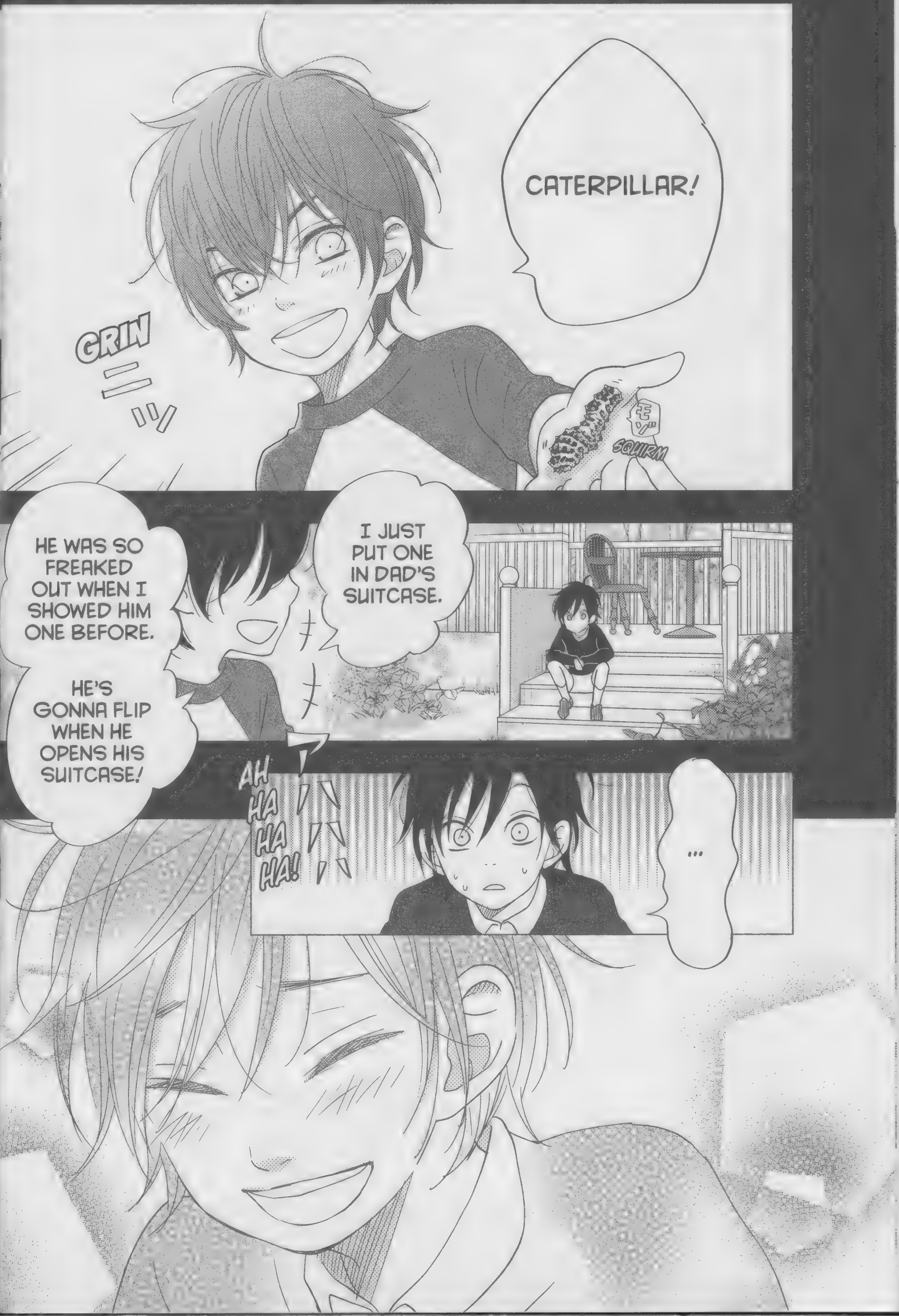
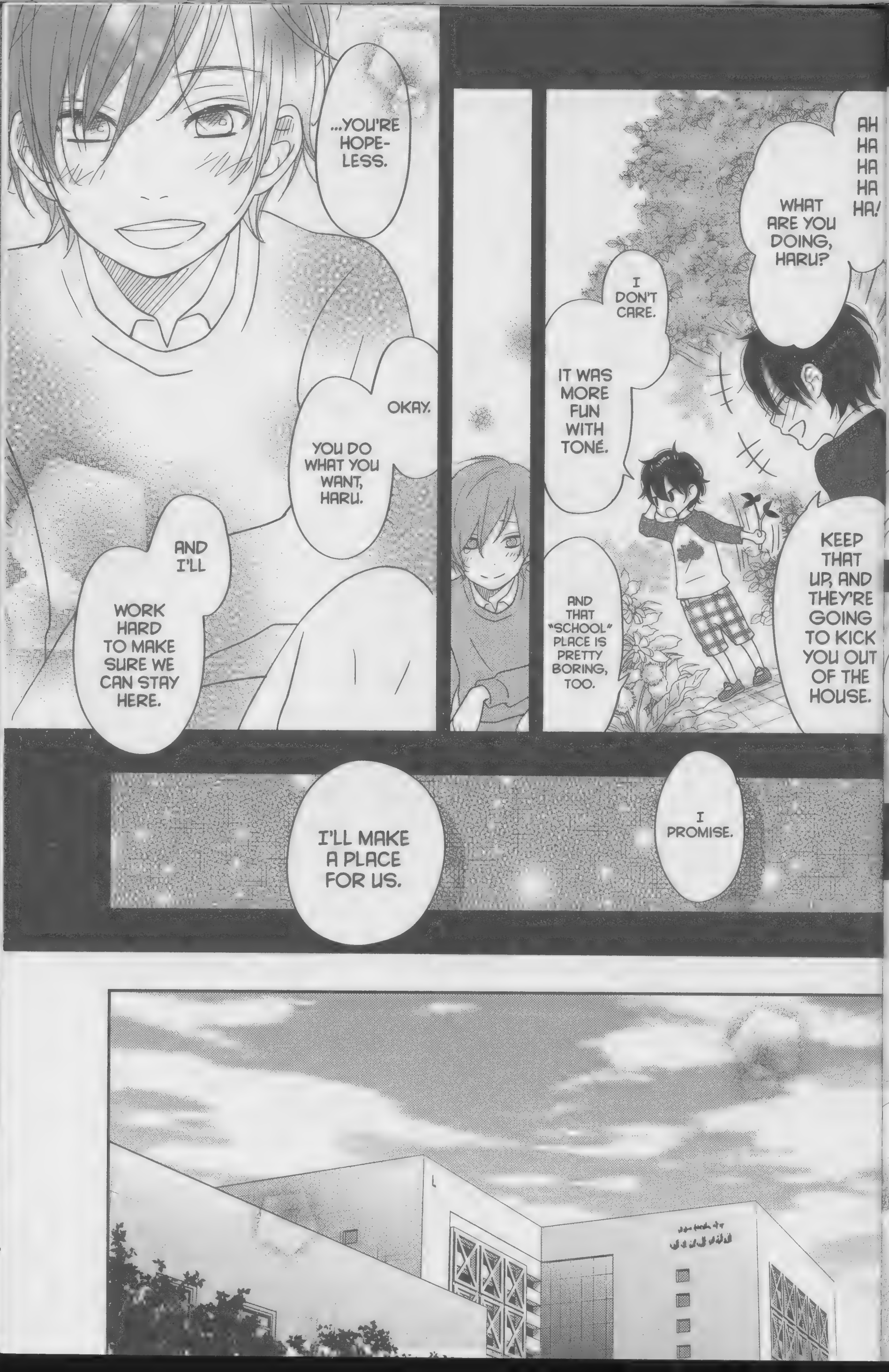
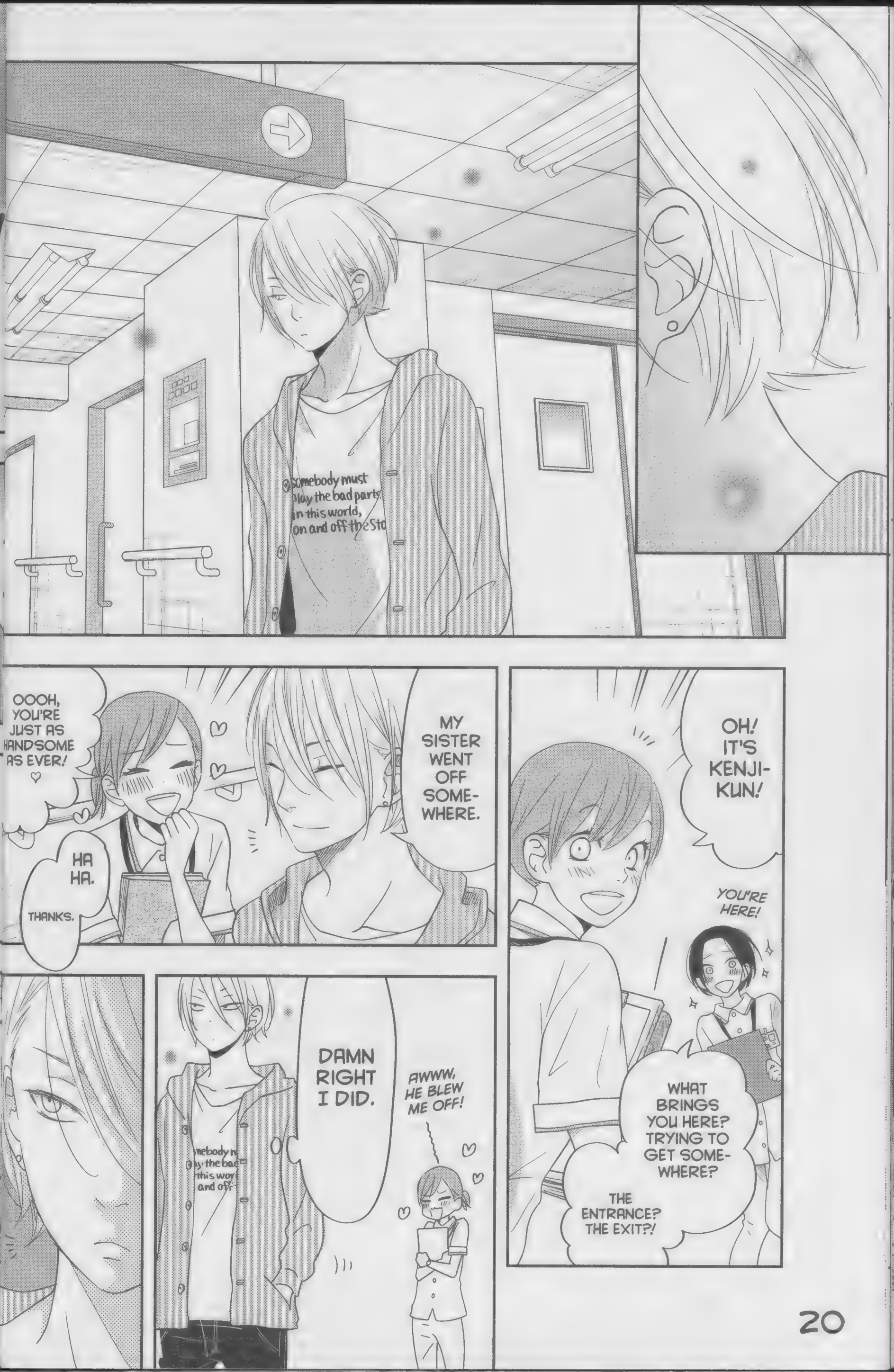
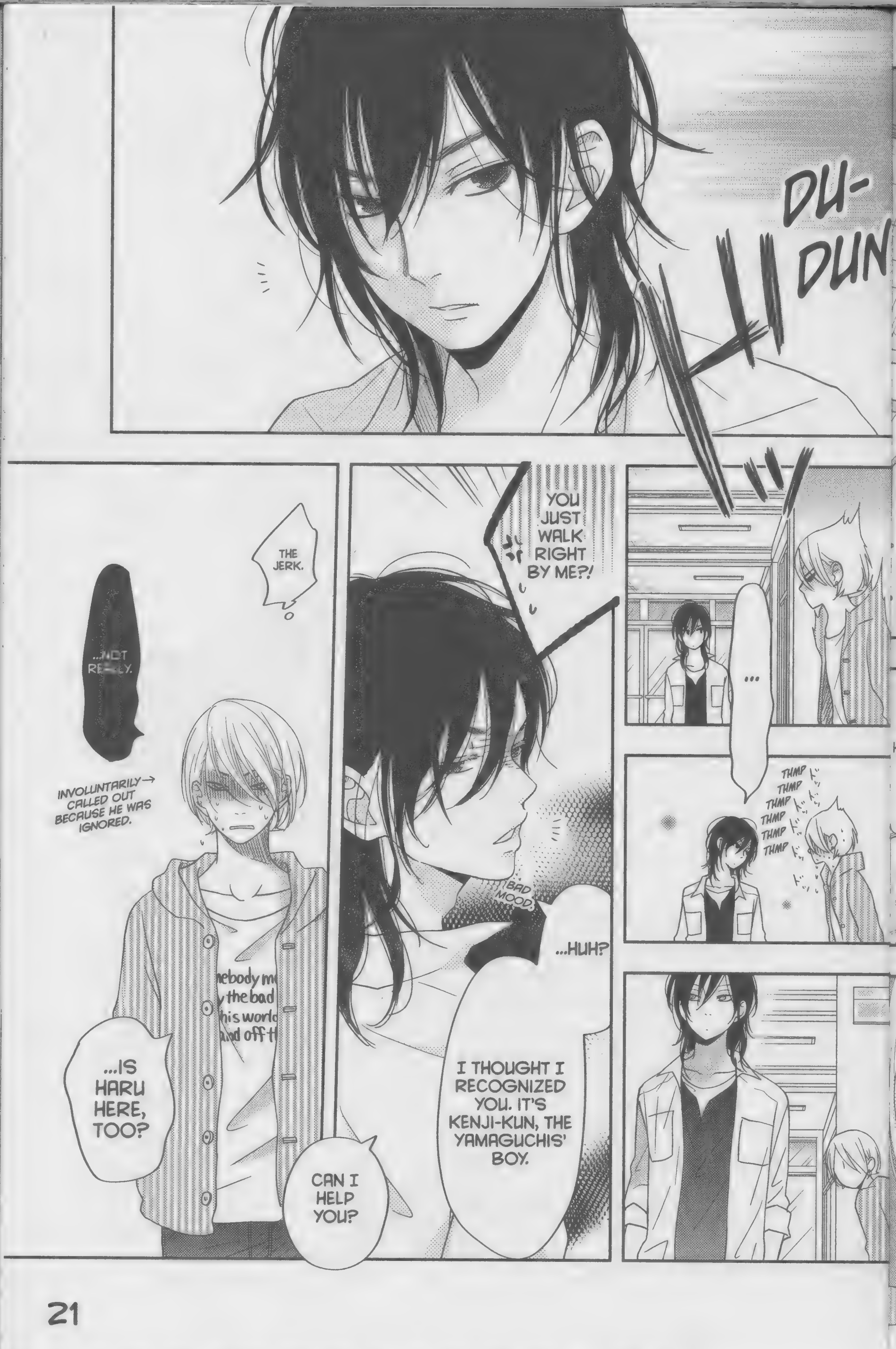
WHAT
FATH
LOO
LIK
...S
YOU
HAR
STOP ACTING LIKE SOME KIND OF FREAK. ARE YOU STUPID?
EDUCATE YOURSELF.
THE DAY HARU FIRST MET OUR FATHER,
HE SAID TERRIBLE THINGS TO HIM. BUT INSTEAD OF WORRYING ABOUT MY BROTHER, MY FIRST THOUGHT WAS,
"THAT'S NOT FAIR."
BECAUSE...
...HE DIDN'T SAY A WORD TO ME.
...I HATE THIS PLACE.
EVERYBODY HERE'S LIKE, "DON'T DO THIS," "DON'T DO THAT."
THEY'RE WORSE THAN TONÉ.
...THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.
IF WE WANT TO STAY HERE,
WE JUST HAVE TO PUT UP WITH IT.

AH HA HA HA HA!
AT YOU NG, RU?
KEEP THAT UP, AND THEY'RE GOING TO KICK YOU OUT OF THE HOUSE.


CATERPILLAR!
GRIN
モゾ
SQUIRM
I JUST PUT ONE IN DAD'S SUITCASE.
HE WAS SO FREAKED OUT WHEN I SHOWED HIM ONE BEFORE.
HE'S GONNA FLIP WHEN HE OPENS HIS SUITCASE!
...
AH HA HA HA HA!


AH HA HA HA HA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, HARU?
KEEP THAT UP, AND THEY'RE GOING TO KICK YOU OUT OF THE HOUSE.
I DON'T CARE.
IT WAS MORE FUN WITH TONÉ.
AND THAT "SCHOOL" PLACE IS PRETTY BORING, TOO.
...YOU'RE HOPELESS.
OKAY.
YOU DO WHAT YOU WANT, HARU.
AND I'LL
WORK HARD TO MAKE SURE WE CAN STAY HERE.
I PROMISE.
I'LL MAKE A PLACE FOR US.


Somebody must play the bad parts in this world, on and off the Sta
OH! IT'S KENJI-KUN!
YOU'RE HERE!
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE? TRYING TO GET SOMEWHERE?
THE ENTRANCE? THE EXIT?!
MY SISTER WENT OFF SOMEWHERE.
OOOH, YOU'RE JUST AS HANDSOME AS EVER! ♡
HA HA.
THANKS.
DAMN RIGHT I DID.
AWWW, HE BLEW ME OFF!


DU-
DUN
...
THMP THMP THMP THMP THMP THMP
YOU JUST WALK RIGHT BY ME?!
BAD MOOD.
...HUH?
I THOUGHT I RECOGNIZED YOU. IT'S KENJI-KUN, THE YAMAGUCHIS' BOY.
CAN I HELP YOU?
THE JERK.
...NOT REALLY.
INVOLUNTARILY→ CALLED OUT BECAUSE HE WAS IGNORED.
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his world
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...IS HARU HERE, TOO?

OOOH
YOU'R
JUST A
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AS EVE
♡
THAN

I'M SURPRISED.
SEEM
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SO I
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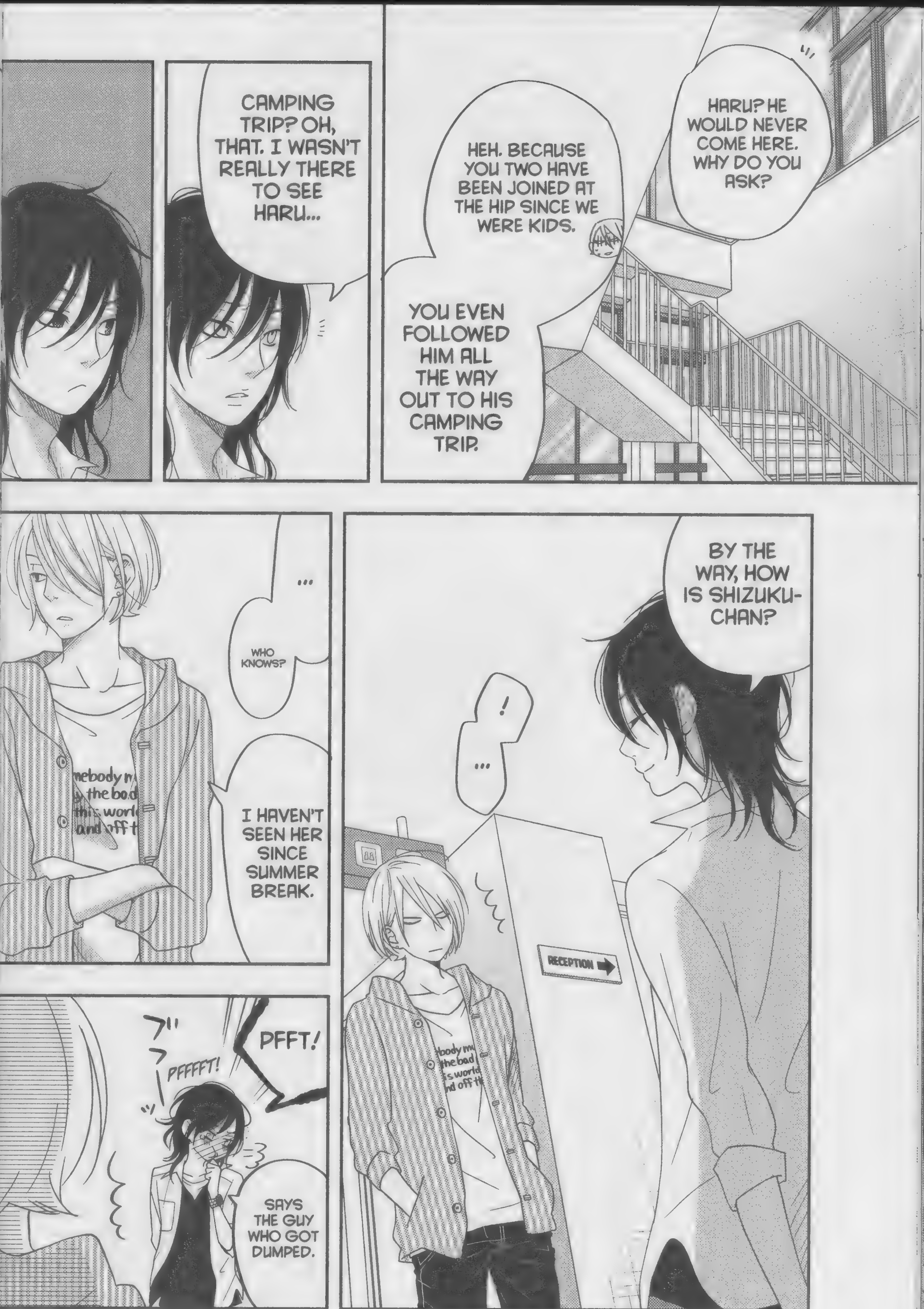
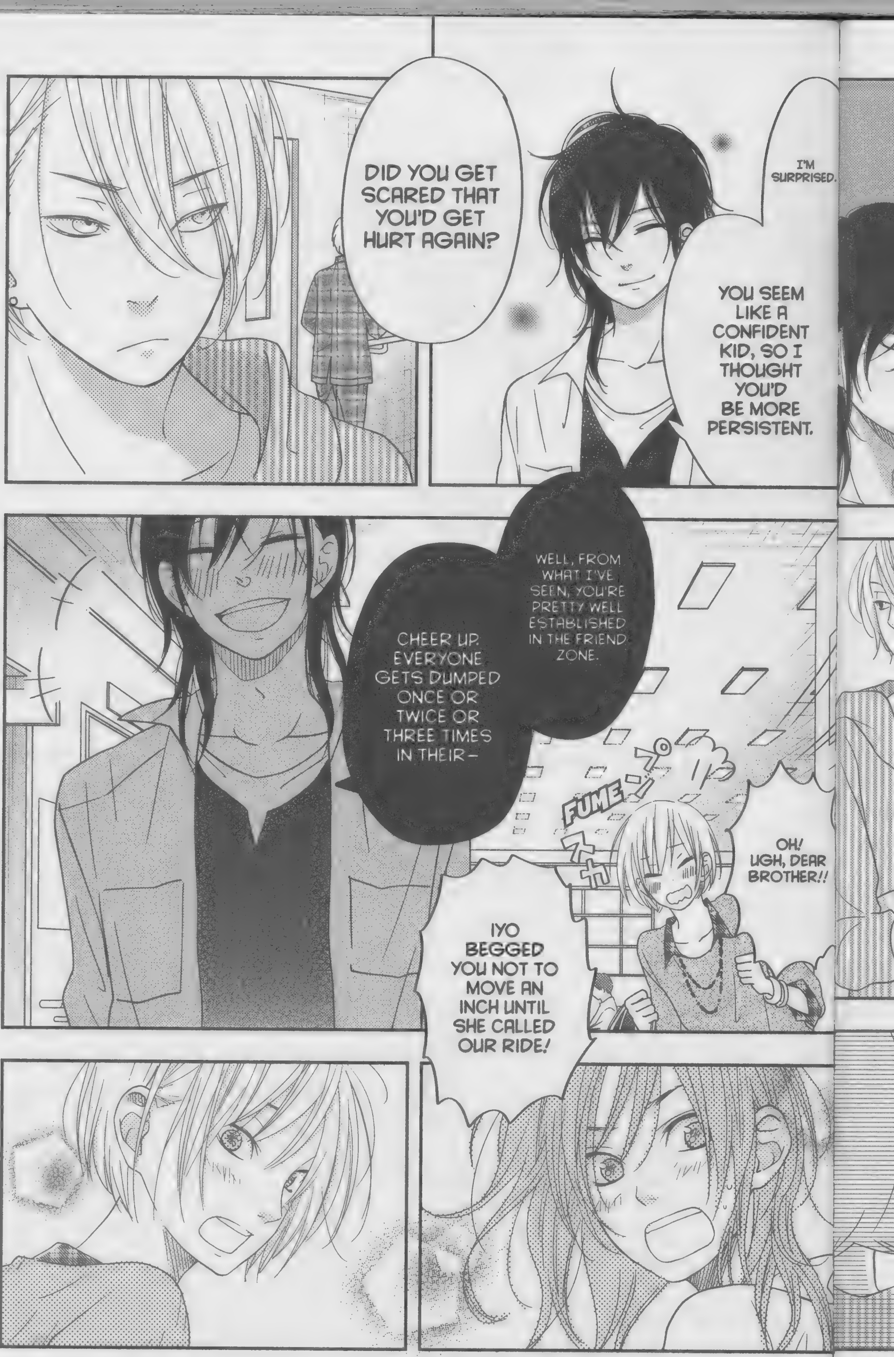
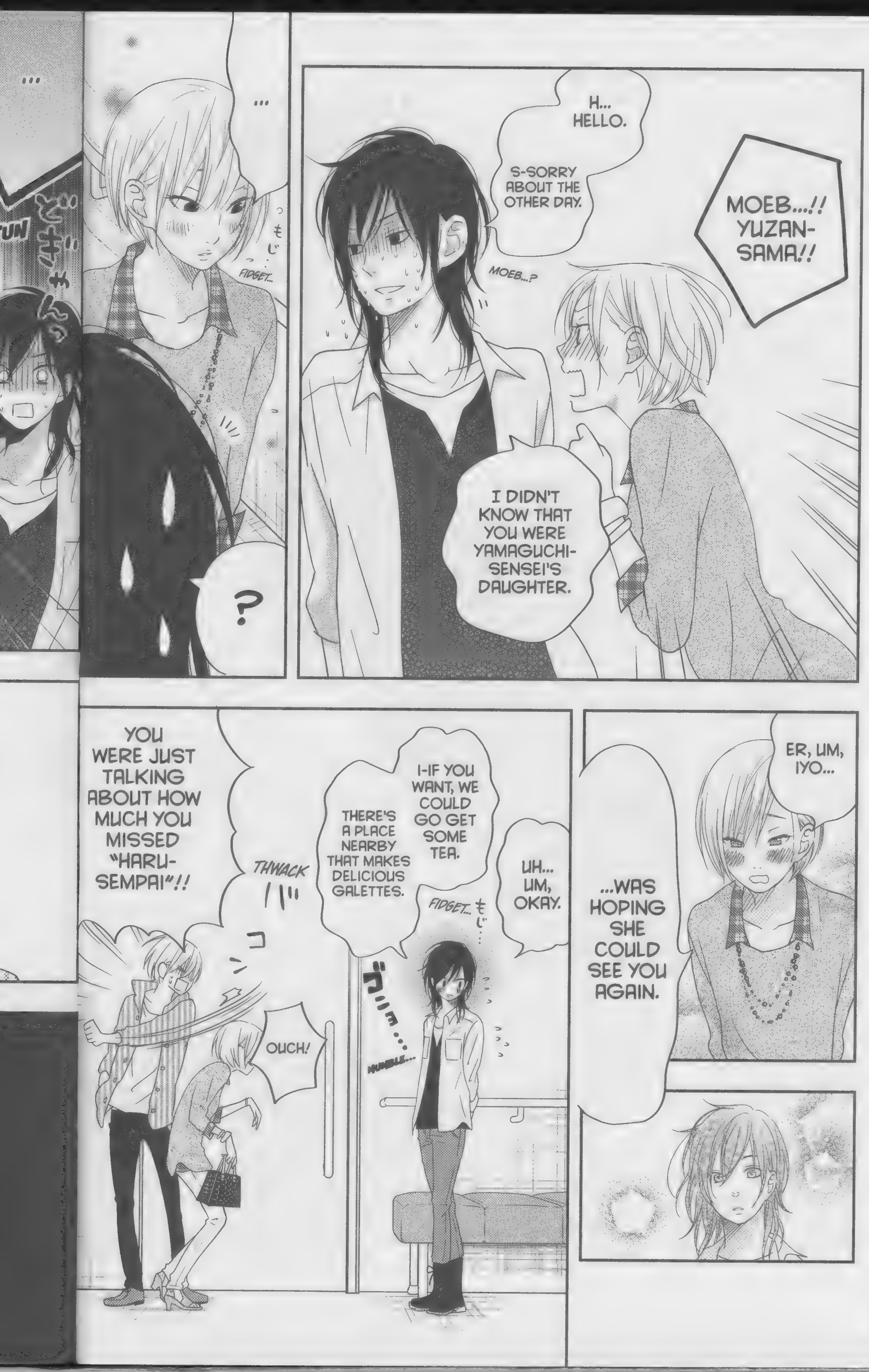
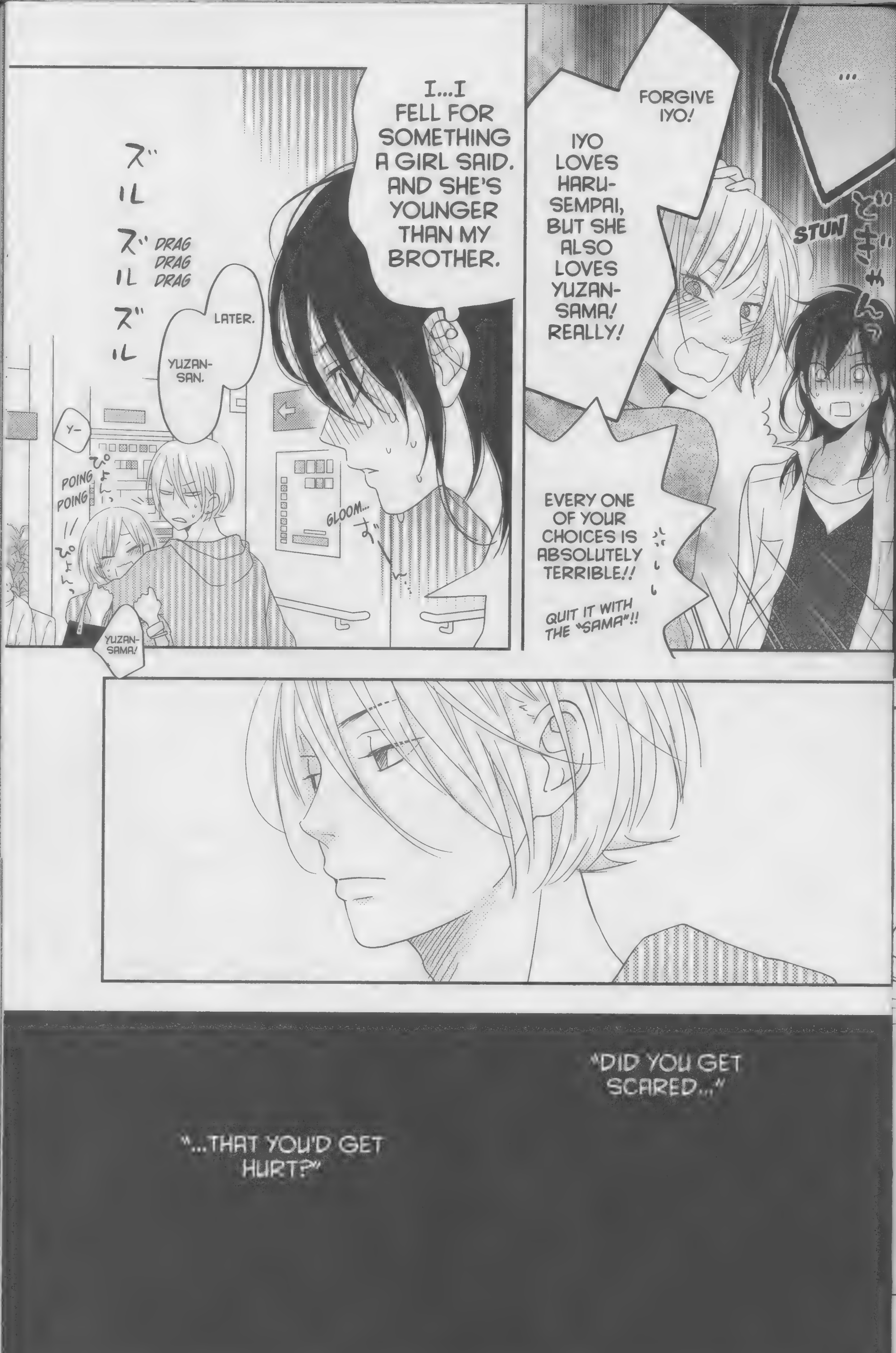
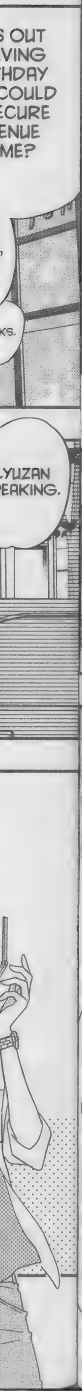
MORE
STENT.
OH!
GH, DEAR
ROTHER!!


HARU? HE WOULD NEVER COME HERE. WHY DO YOU ASK?
HEH. BECAUSE YOU TWO HAVE BEEN JOINED AT THE HIP SINCE WE WERE KIDS.
YOU EVEN FOLLOWED HIM ALL THE WAY OUT TO HIS CAMPING TRIP.
CAMPING TRIP? OH, THAT. I WASN'T REALLY THERE TO SEE HARU...
BY THE WAY, HOW IS SHIZUKU-CHAN?
!
...
RECEPTION
...
WHO KNOWS?
I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE SUMMER BREAK.
PFFT!
ブッ
PFFFFT!
SAYS THE GUY WHO GOT DUMPED.


I'M SURPRISED.
YOU SEEM LIKE A CONFIDENT KID, SO I THOUGHT YOU'D BE MORE PERSISTENT.
DID YOU GET SCARED THAT YOU'D GET HURT AGAIN?
WELL, FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, YOU'RE PRETTY WELL ESTABLISHED IN THE FRIEND ZONE.
CHEER UP. EVERYONE GETS DUMPED ONCE OR TWICE OR THREE TIMES IN THEIR–
OH! UGH, DEAR BROTHER!!
FUME
IYO BEGGED YOU NOT TO MOVE AN INCH UNTIL SHE CALLED OUR RIDE!


MOEB...!! YUZAN-SAMA!!
H... HELLO.
S-SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY.
MOEB...?
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU WERE YAMAGUCHI-SENSEI'S DAUGHTER.
...
FIDGET...
?
ER, UM, IYO...
...WAS HOPING SHE COULD SEE YOU AGAIN.
I-IF YOU WANT, WE COULD GO GET SOME TEA.
THERE'S A PLACE NEARBY THAT MAKES DELICIOUS GALETTES.
UH... UM, OKAY.
FIDGET...
HUMBLE...
YOU WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT HOW MUCH YOU MISSED "HARU-SEMPAI"!!
THWACK
OUCH!


...
どぎゃんっ
STUN
FORGIVE IYO!
IYO LOVES HARU-SEMPAI, BUT SHE ALSO LOVES YUZAN-SAMA! REALLY!
EVERY ONE OF YOUR CHOICES IS ABSOLUTELY TERRIBLE!!
QUIT IT WITH THE "SAMA"!!
I...I FELL FOR SOMETHING A GIRL SAID. AND SHE'S YOUNGER THAN MY BROTHER.
GLOOM...
ずーん
ズルズルズル
DRAG DRAG DRAG
LATER.
YUZAN-SAN.
Y-
ぴょんっ ぴょんっ
POING POING
YUZAN-SAMA!
"DID YOU GET SCARED..."
"...THAT YOU'D GET HURT?"


S OUT
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THDAY
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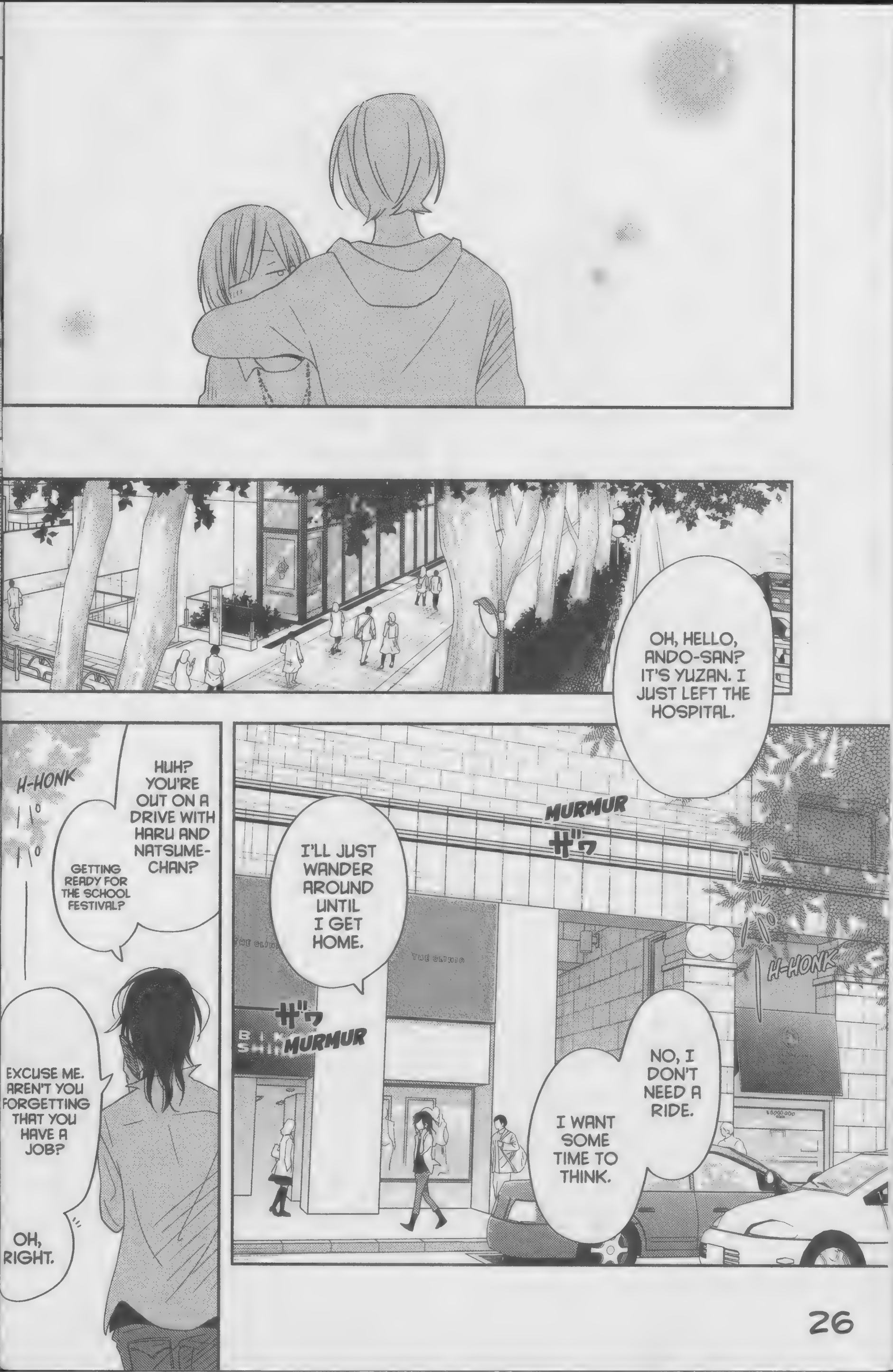
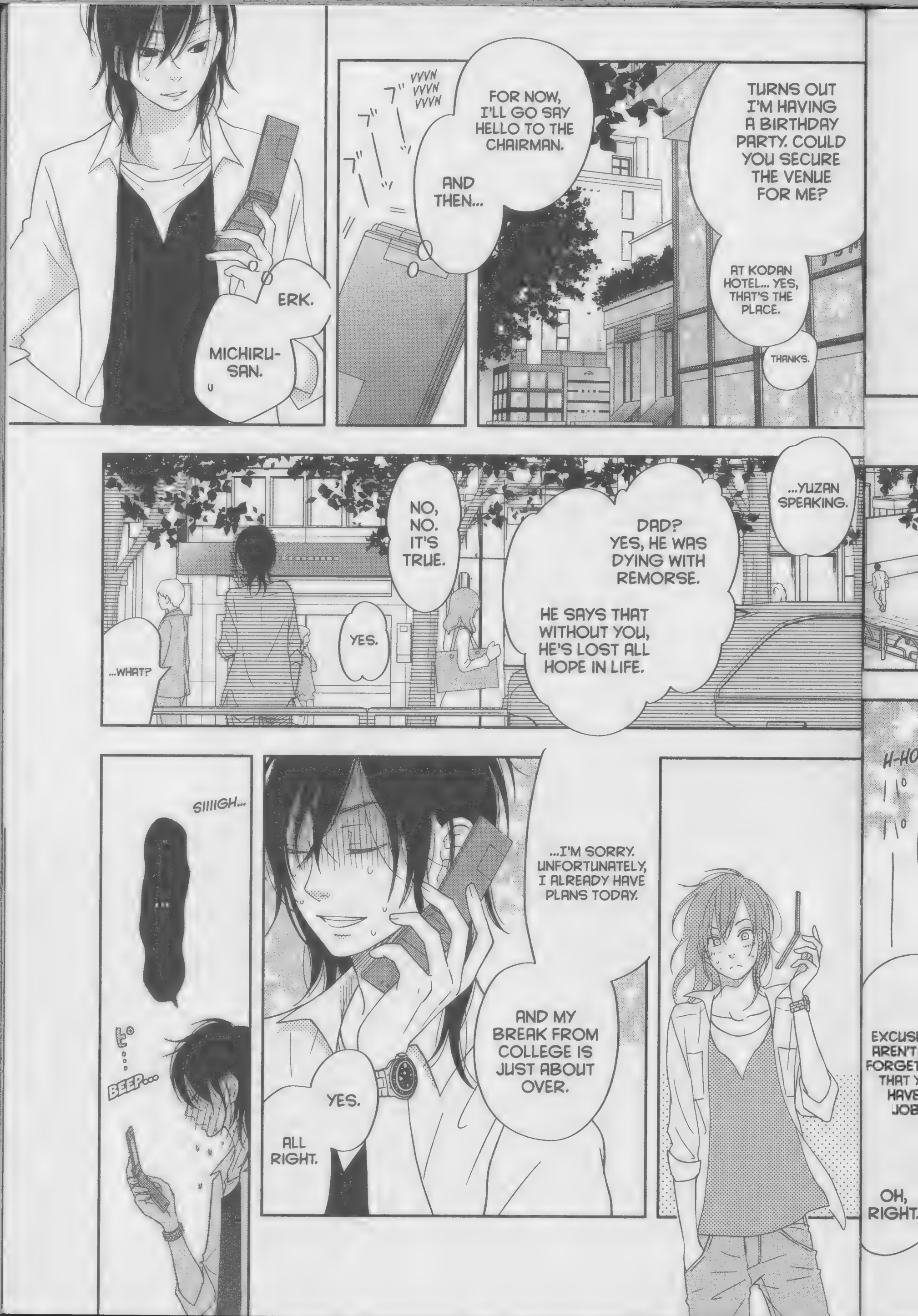
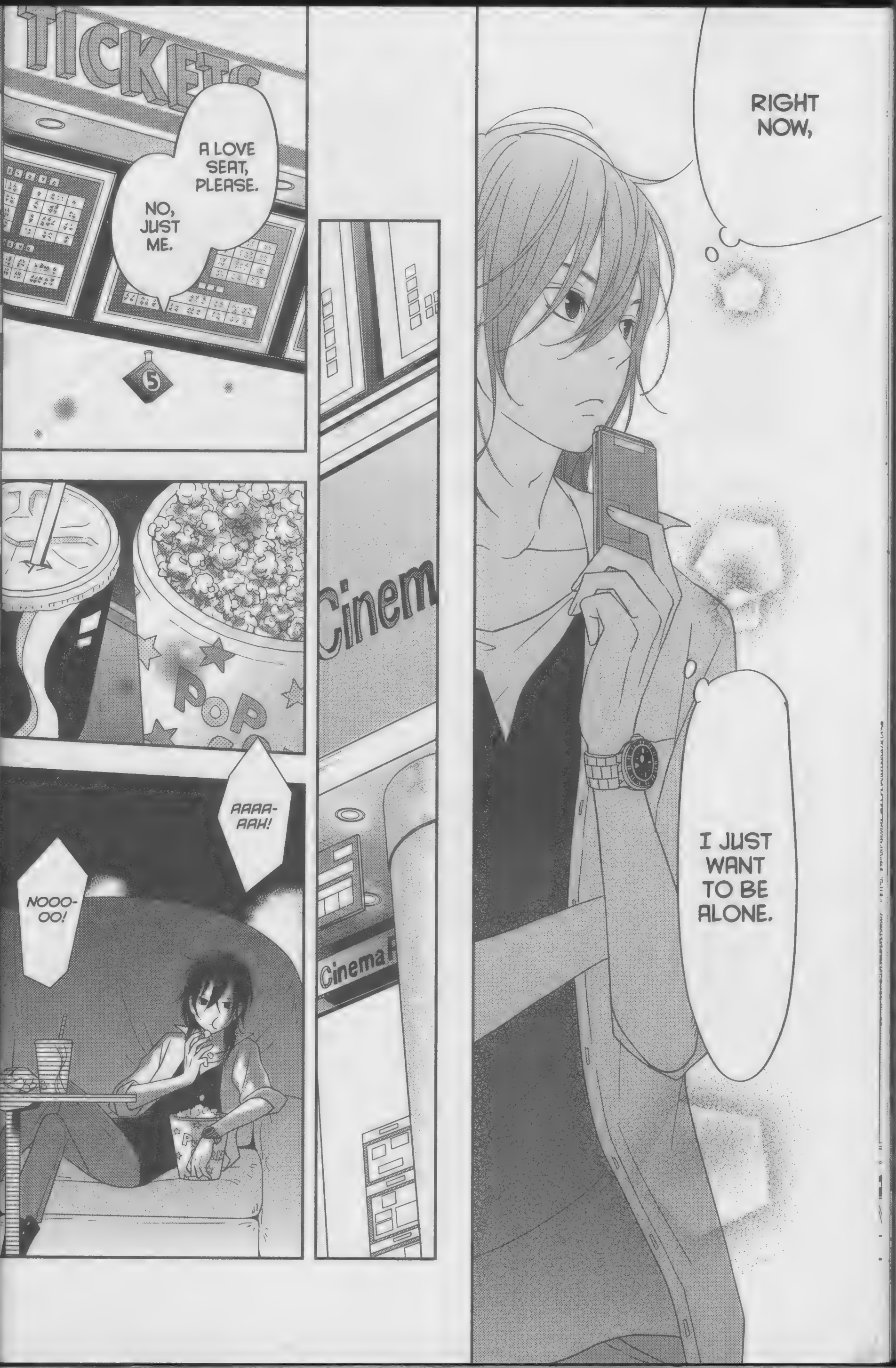
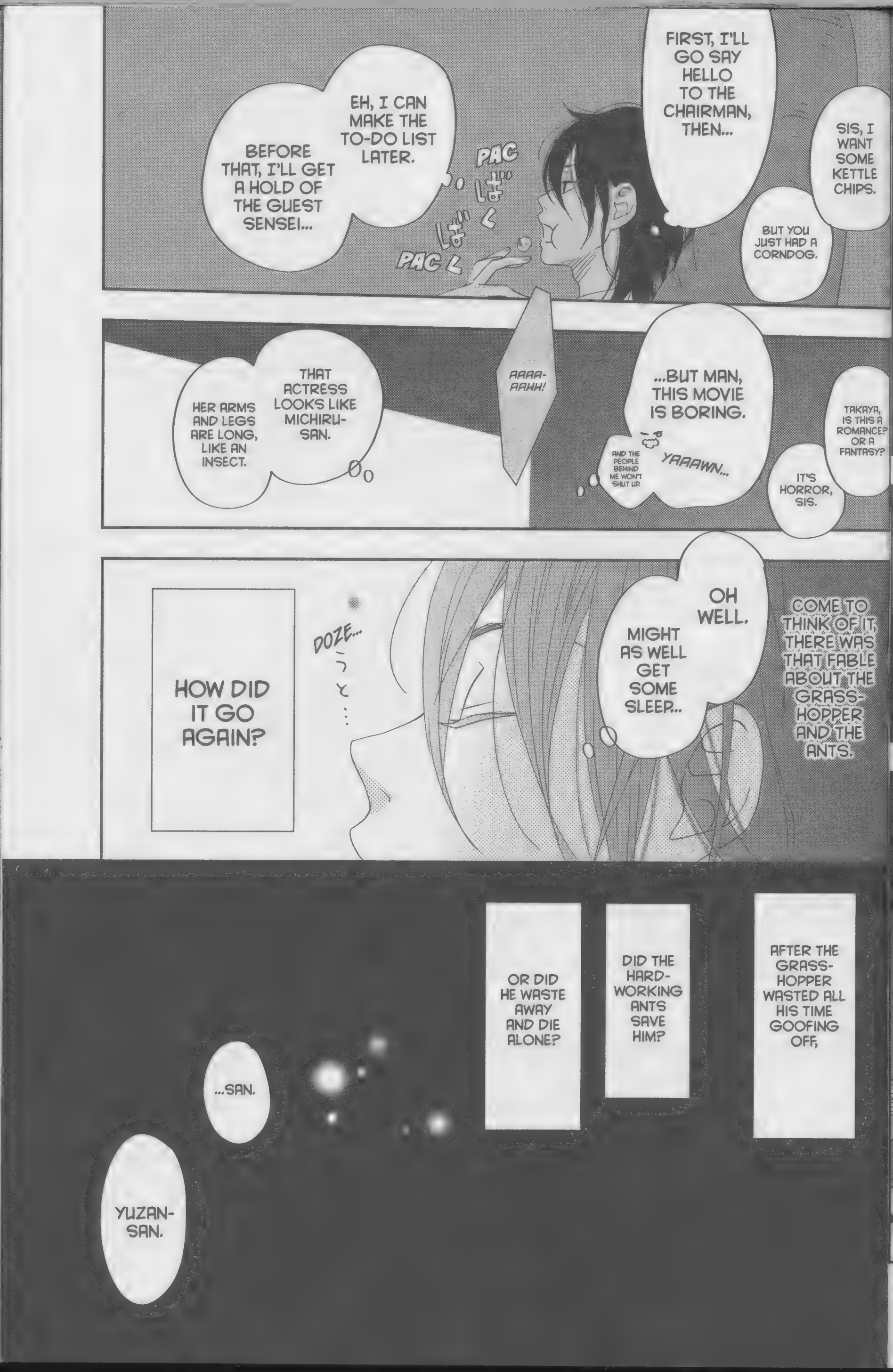
ENUE
ME?
KS.
YUZAN
PEAKING.

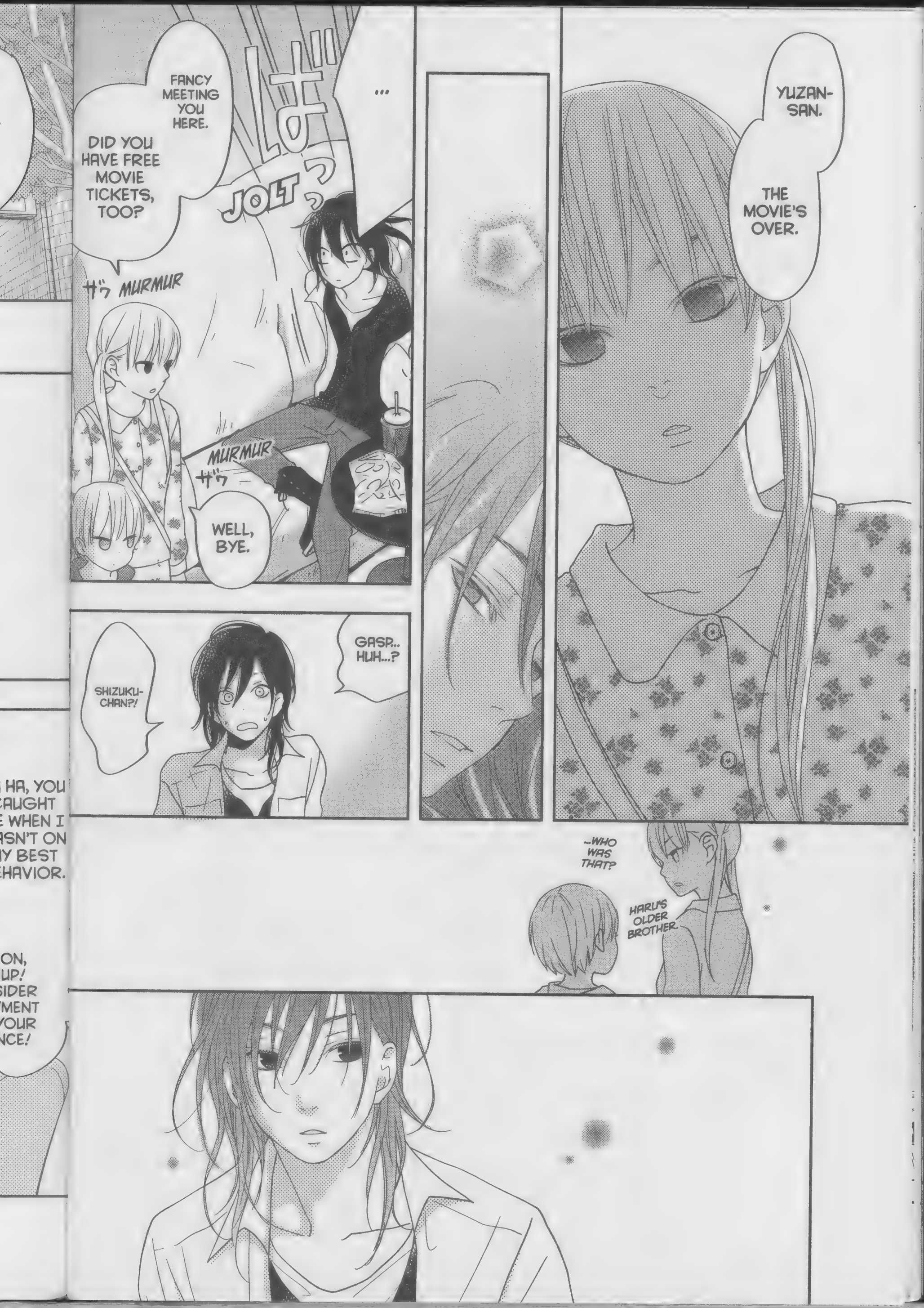

OH, HELLO, ANDO-SAN? IT'S YUZAN. I JUST LEFT THE HOSPITAL.
MURMUR
H-HONK
NO, I DON'T NEED A RIDE.
I WANT SOME TIME TO THINK.
I'LL JUST WANDER AROUND UNTIL I GET HOME.
MURMUR
H-HONK
HUH? YOU'RE OUT ON A DRIVE WITH HARU AND NATSUME-CHAN?
GETTING READY FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL?
EXCUSE ME. AREN'T YOU FORGETTING THAT YOU HAVE A JOB?
OH, RIGHT.

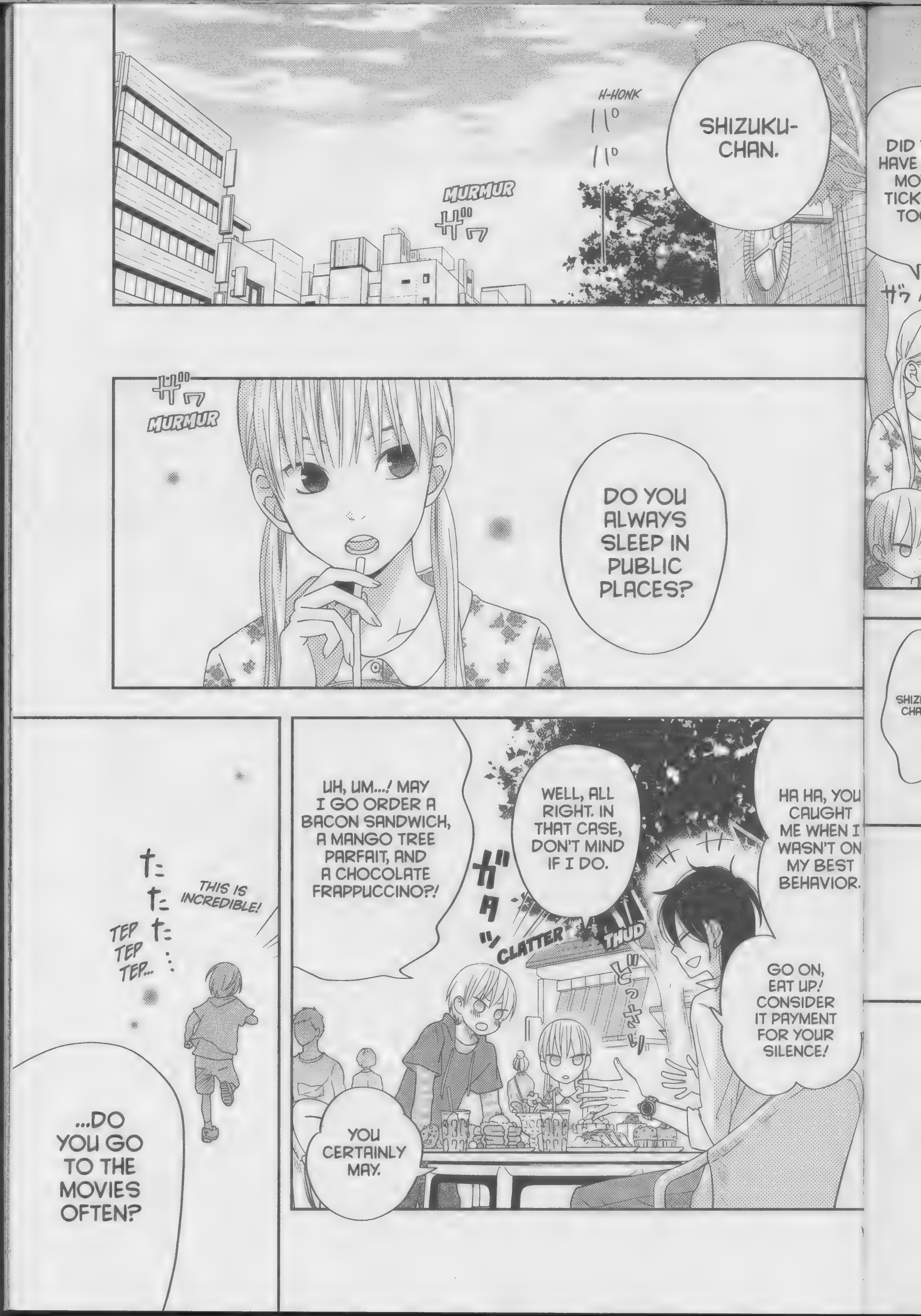

TURNS OUT I'M HAVING A BIRTHDAY PARTY. COULD YOU SECURE THE VENUE FOR ME?
AT KODAN HOTEL... YES, THAT'S THE PLACE.
THANKS.
FOR NOW, I'LL GO SAY HELLO TO THE CHAIRMAN.
AND THEN...
ブ" ブ" ブ"
VVVN VVVN VVVN
ERK.
MICHIRU-SAN.
...YUZAN SPEAKING.
DAD? YES, HE WAS DYING WITH REMORSE.
HE SAYS THAT WITHOUT YOU, HE'S LOST ALL HOPE IN LIFE.
NO, NO. IT'S TRUE.
YES.
...WHAT?
H-HO
EXCUS
AREN'T
FORGET
THAT Y
HAVE
JOB
OH, RIGHT.
...I'M SORRY. UNFORTUNATELY, I ALREADY HAVE PLANS TODAY.
AND MY BREAK FROM COLLEGE IS JUST ABOUT OVER.
YES.
ALL RIGHT.
SIIIGH...
ピ...
BEEP...

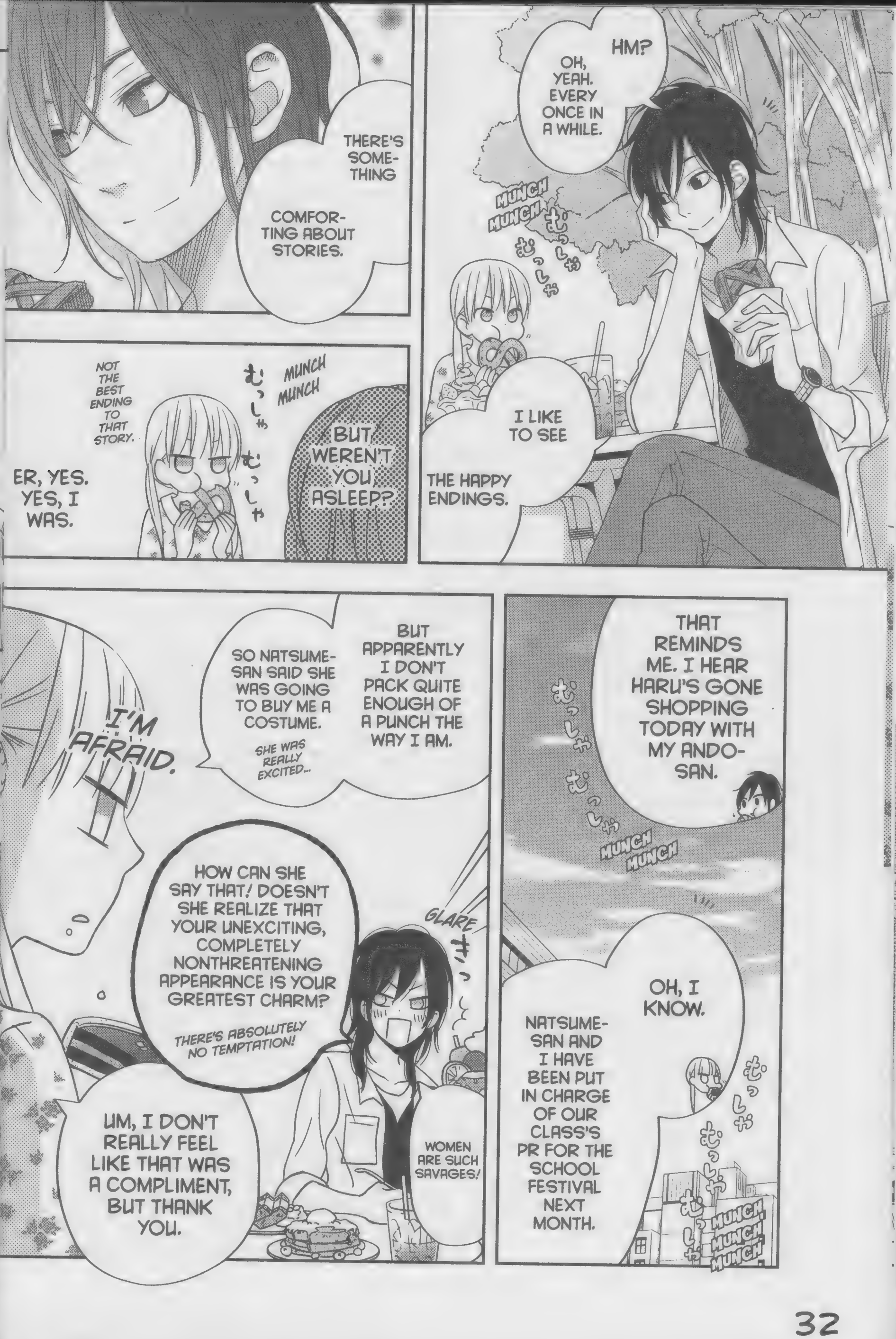

RIGHT NOW,
I JUST WANT TO BE ALONE.
Cinem
Cinema
TICKETS
A LOVE SEAT, PLEASE.
NO, JUST ME.
5
POP
AAAA-AAH!
NOOO-OO!

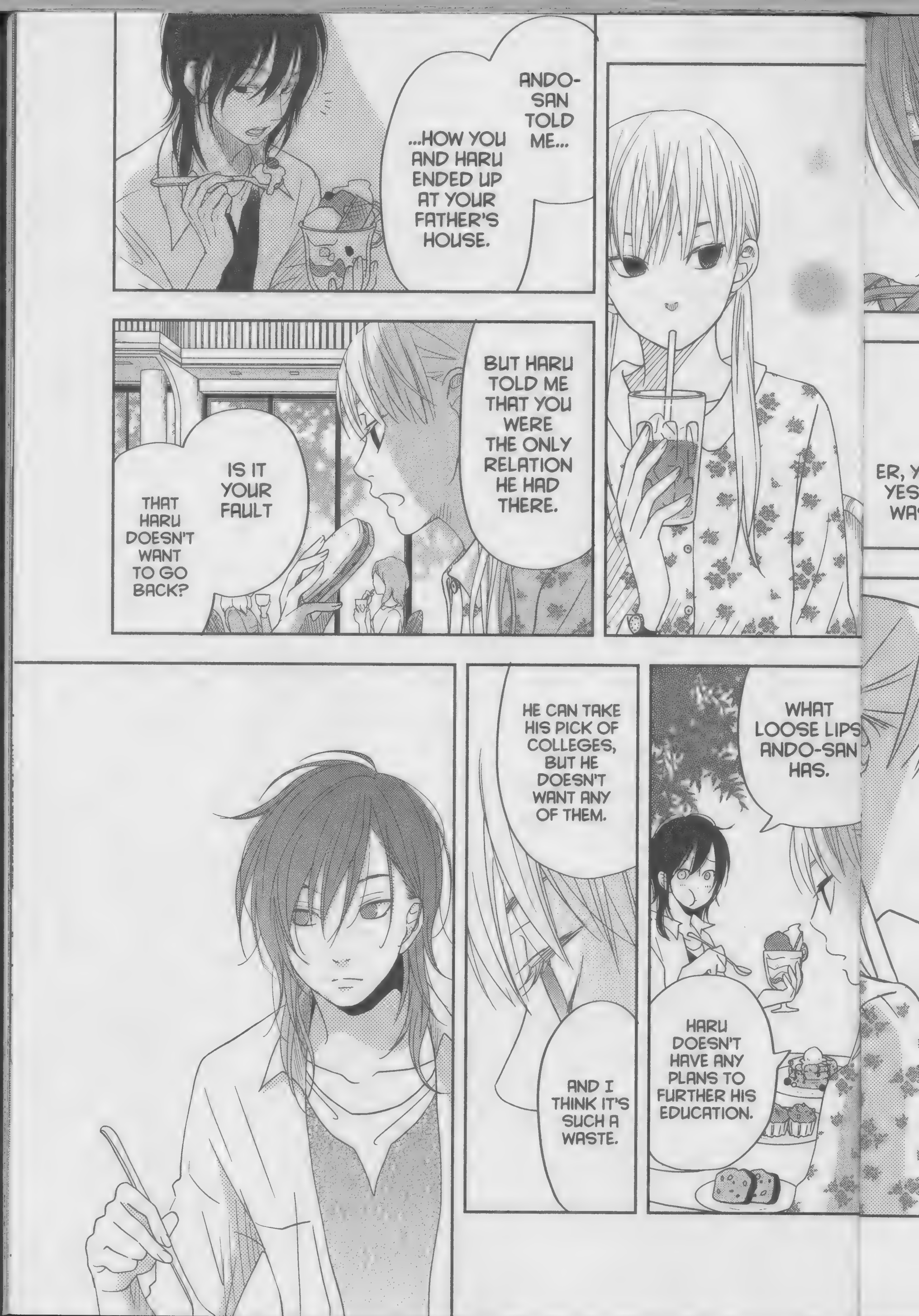
SIS, I WANT SOME KETTLE CHIPS.
TAKAYA, IS THIS A ROMANCE? OR A FANTASY?
OR,
ME TO K OF IT, RE WAS T FABLE OUT THE RASS- OPPER D THE NTS.
THE S- ER ALL ME NG

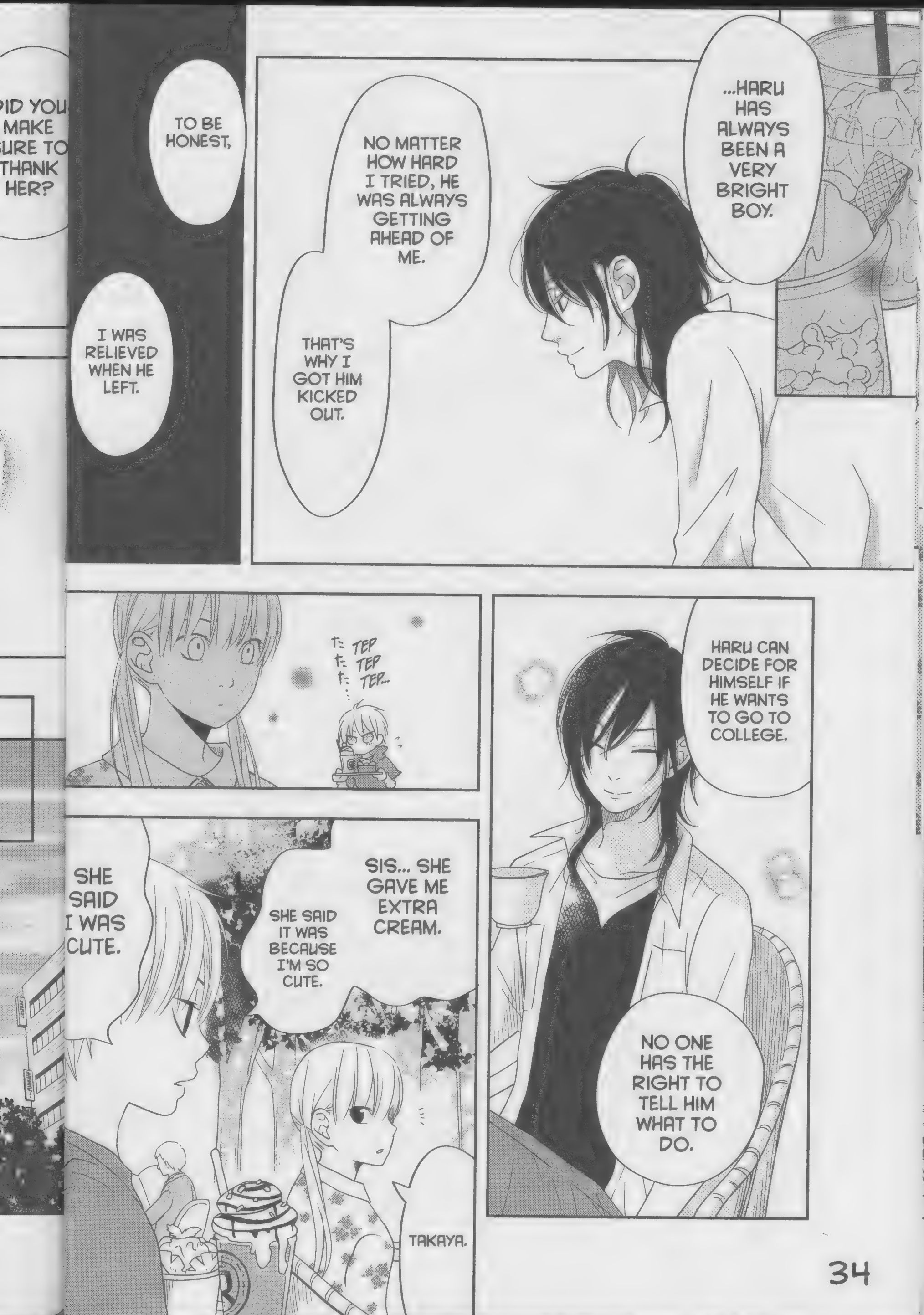

SIS, I WANT SOME KETTLE CHIPS.
BUT YOU JUST HAD A CORNDOG.
FIRST, I'LL GO SAY HELLO TO THE CHAIRMAN, THEN...
EH, I CAN MAKE THE TO-DO LIST LATER.
BEFORE THAT, I'LL GET A HOLD OF THE GUEST SENSEI...
PAC ぱく
PAC ぱく
TAKAYA, IS THIS A ROMANCE? OR A FANTASY?
IT'S HORROR, SIS.
...BUT MAN, THIS MOVIE IS BORING.
YAAAWN...
AND THE PEOPLE BEHIND ME WON'T SHUT UP.
AAAA-AAHH!
THAT ACTRESS LOOKS LIKE MICHIRU-SAN.
HER ARMS AND LEGS ARE LONG, LIKE AN INSECT.
COME TO THINK OF IT, THERE WAS THAT FABLE ABOUT THE GRASSHOPPER AND THE ANTS.
OH WELL.
MIGHT AS WELL GET SOME SLEEP...
DOZE... うと…
HOW DID IT GO AGAIN?
AFTER THE GRASSHOPPER WASTED ALL HIS TIME GOOFING OFF,
DID THE HARD-WORKING ANTS SAVE HIM?
OR DID HE WASTE AWAY AND DIE ALONE?
...SAN.
YUZAN-SAN.

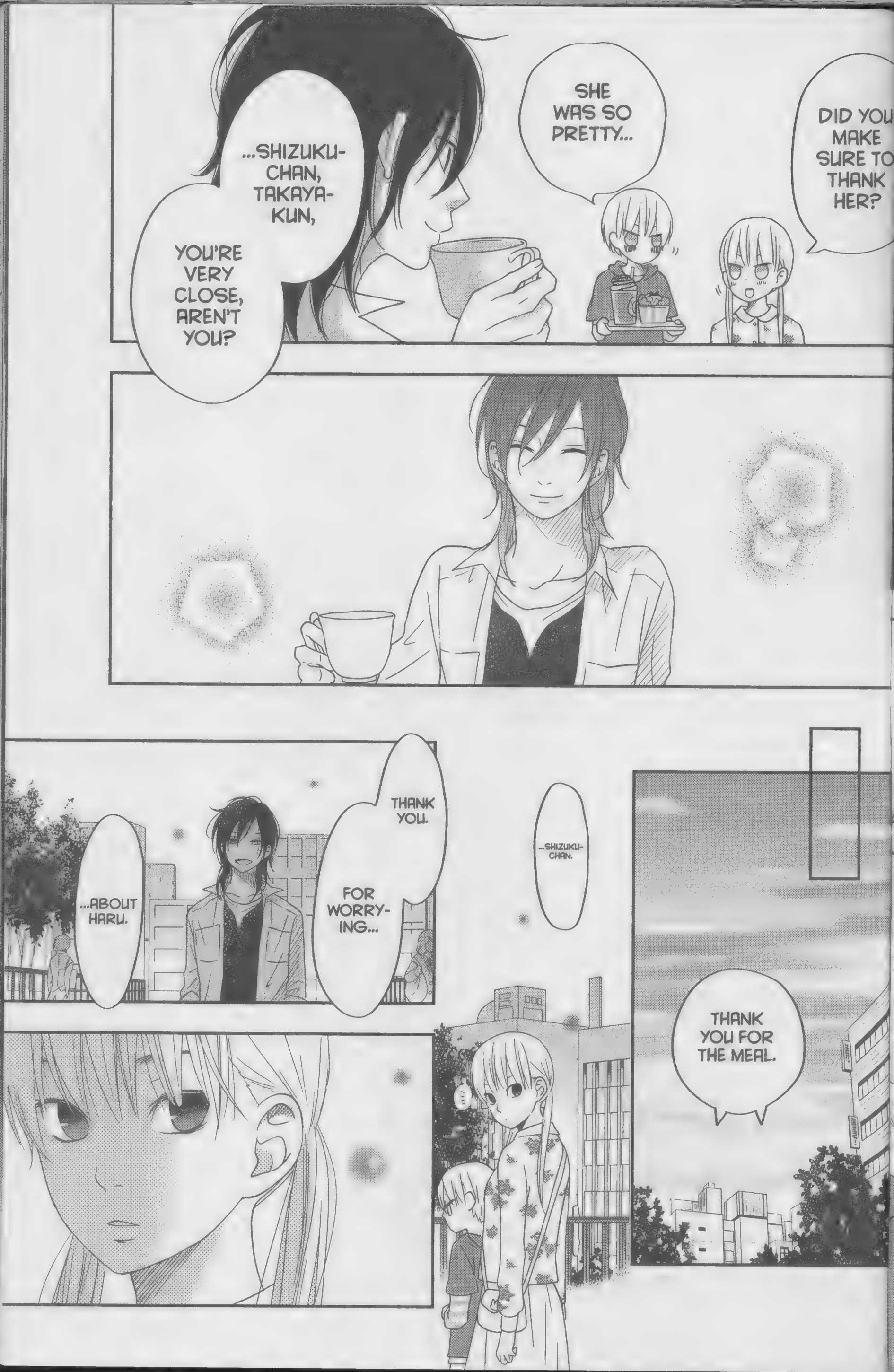

YUZAN-SAN.
THE MOVIE'S OVER.
...
ぼっ
JOLT っ
FANCY MEETING YOU HERE.
DID YOU HAVE FREE MOVIE TICKETS, TOO?
ザワ MURMUR
MURMUR ザワ
WELL, BYE.
GASP... HUH...?
SHIZUKU-CHAN?!
A HA, YOU CAUGHT E WHEN I ASN'T ON Y BEST EHAVIOR.
ON, UP! SIDER YMENT YOUR NCE!
...WHO WAS THAT?
HARU'S OLDER BROTHER.

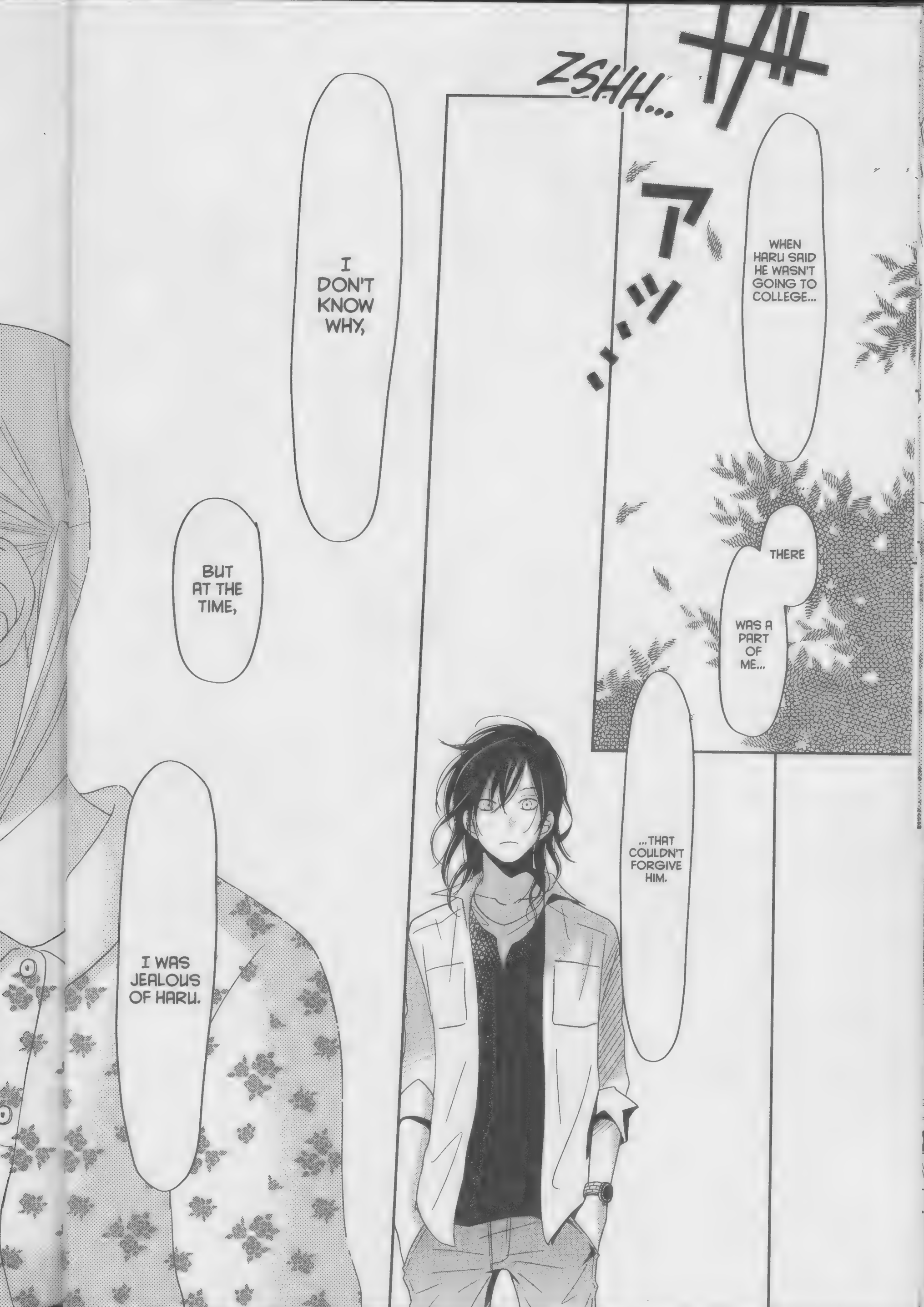

SHIZUKU-CHAN.
H-HONK
パ パ
MURMUR
ザワ
ザワ
MURMUR
DO YOU ALWAYS SLEEP IN PUBLIC PLACES?
HA HA, YOU CAUGHT ME WHEN I WASN'T ON MY BEST BEHAVIOR.
GO ON, EAT UP! CONSIDER IT PAYMENT FOR YOUR SILENCE!
WELL, ALL RIGHT. IN THAT CASE, DON'T MIND IF I DO.
THUD
どっさり
CLATTER
ガタッ
UH, UM...! MAY I GO ORDER A BACON SANDWICH, A MANGO TREE PARFAIT, AND A CHOCOLATE FRAPPUCCINO?!
YOU CERTAINLY MAY.
THIS IS INCREDIBLE!
たたた…
TEP TEP TEP...
...DO YOU GO TO THE MOVIES OFTEN?

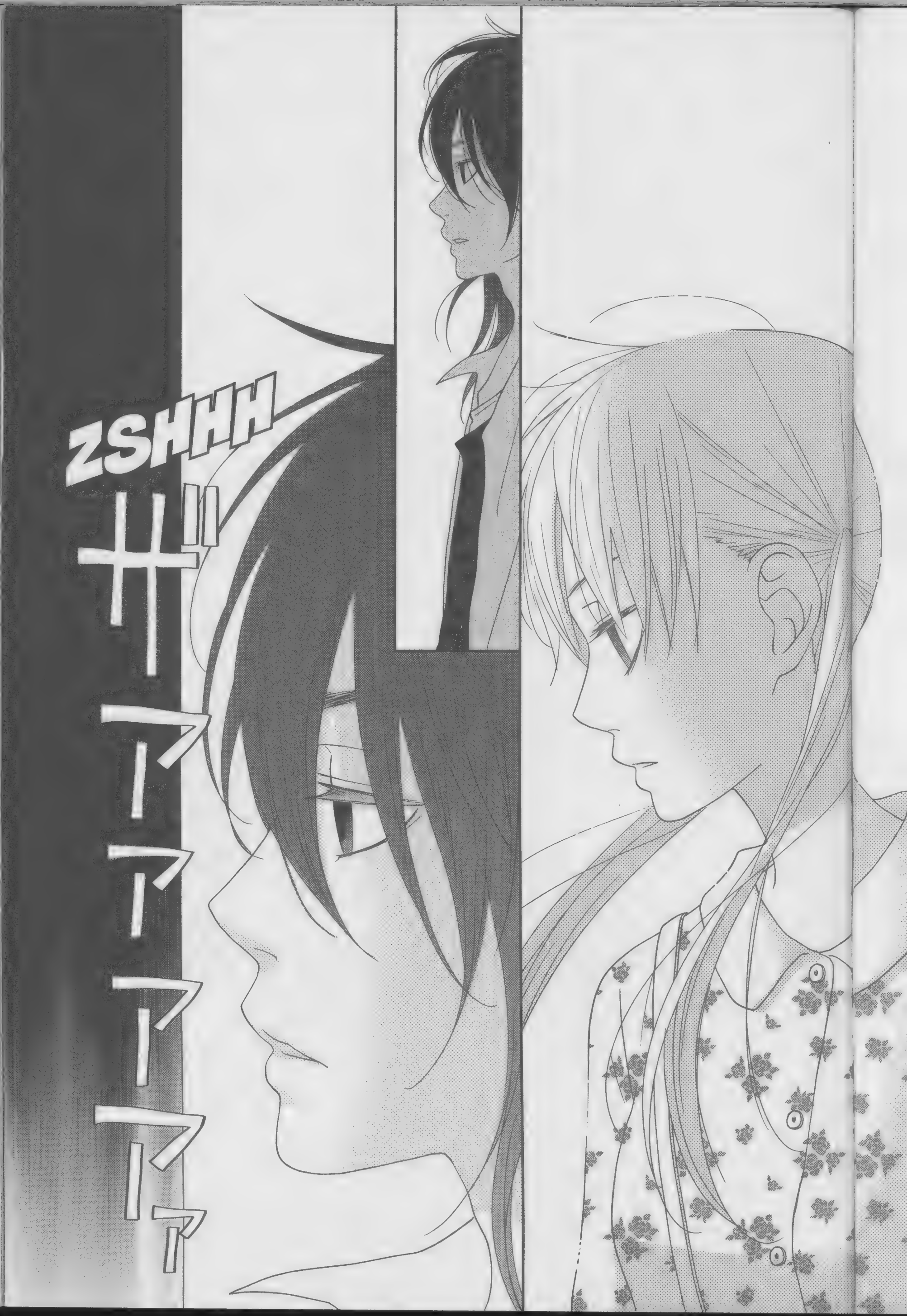

HM?
OH, YEAH. EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.
MUNCH MUNCH
むっしゃむっしゃ
I LIKE TO SEE THE HAPPY ENDINGS.
THERE'S SOMETHING COMFORTING ABOUT STORIES.
BUT WEREN'T YOU ASLEEP?
MUNCH MUNCH
むっしゃむっしゃ
NOT THE BEST ENDING TO THAT STORY.
ER, YES. YES, I WAS.
THAT REMINDS ME. I HEAR HARU'S GONE SHOPPING TODAY WITH MY ANDO-SAN.
むっしゃむっしゃ
MUNCH MUNCH
OH, I KNOW.
NATSUME-SAN AND I HAVE BEEN PUT IN CHARGE OF OUR CLASS'S PR FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL NEXT MONTH.
むっしゃむっしゃむっしゃ
MUNCH, MUNCH, MUNCH
BUT APPARENTLY I DON'T PACK QUITE ENOUGH OF A PUNCH THE WAY I AM.
SO NATSUME-SAN SAID SHE WAS GOING TO BUY ME A COSTUME.
SHE WAS REALLY EXCITED...
I'M AFRAID.
GLARE
きっ
HOW CAN SHE SAY THAT! DOESN'T SHE REALIZE THAT YOUR UNEXCITING, COMPLETELY NONTHREATENING APPEARANCE IS YOUR GREATEST CHARM?
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO TEMPTATION!
WOMEN ARE SUCH SAVAGES!
UM, I DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE THAT WAS A COMPLIMENT, BUT THANK YOU.

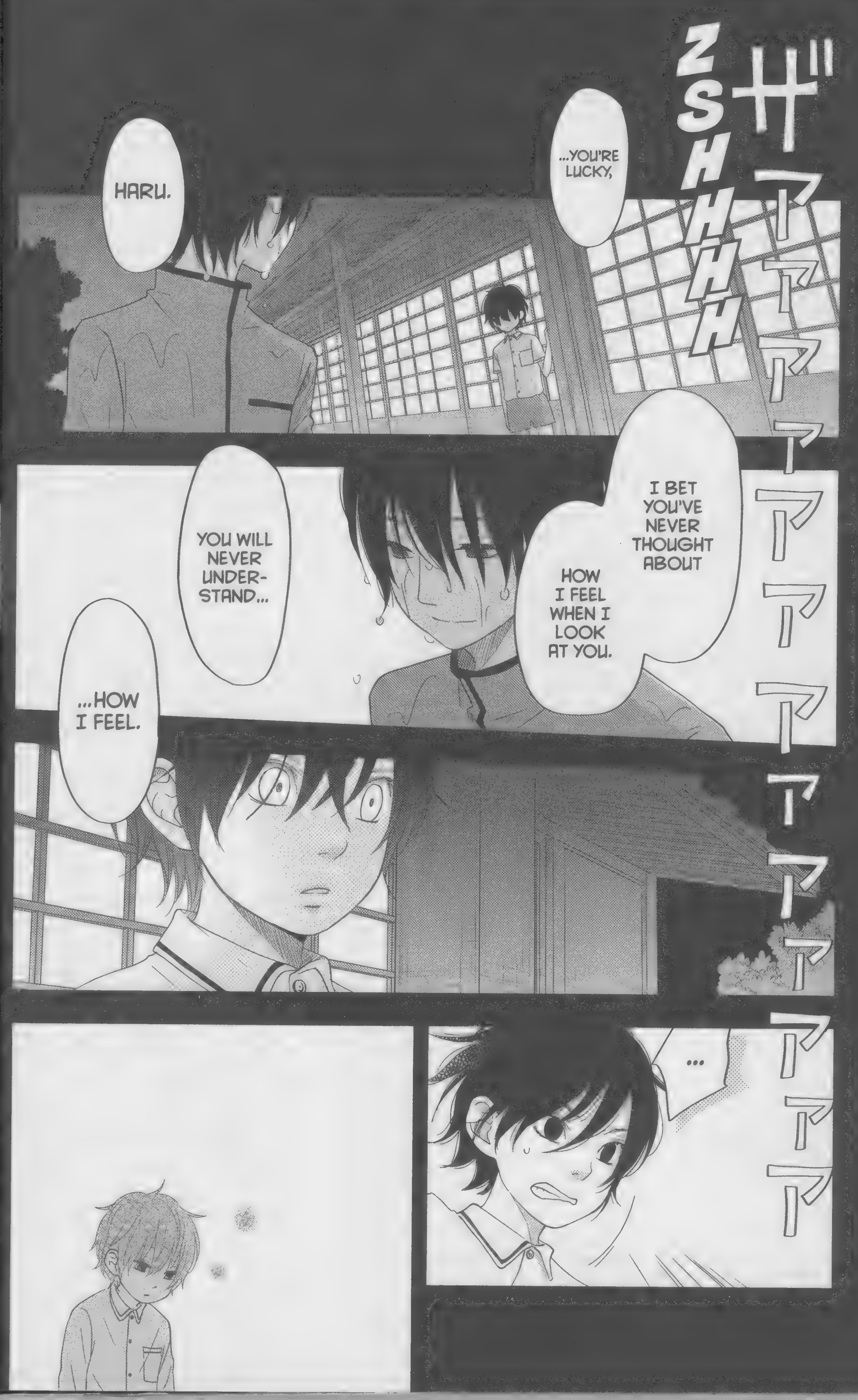

ANDO-SAN TOLD ME...
...HOW YOU AND HARU ENDED UP AT YOUR FATHER'S HOUSE.
BUT HARU TOLD ME THAT YOU WERE THE ONLY RELATION HE HAD THERE.
IS IT YOUR FAULT
THAT HARU DOESN'T WANT TO GO BACK?
ER, Y
YES
WA
WHAT LOOSE LIPS ANDO-SAN HAS.
HARU DOESN'T HAVE ANY PLANS TO FURTHER HIS EDUCATION.
HE CAN TAKE HIS PICK OF COLLEGES, BUT HE DOESN'T WANT ANY OF THEM.
AND I THINK IT'S SUCH A WASTE.

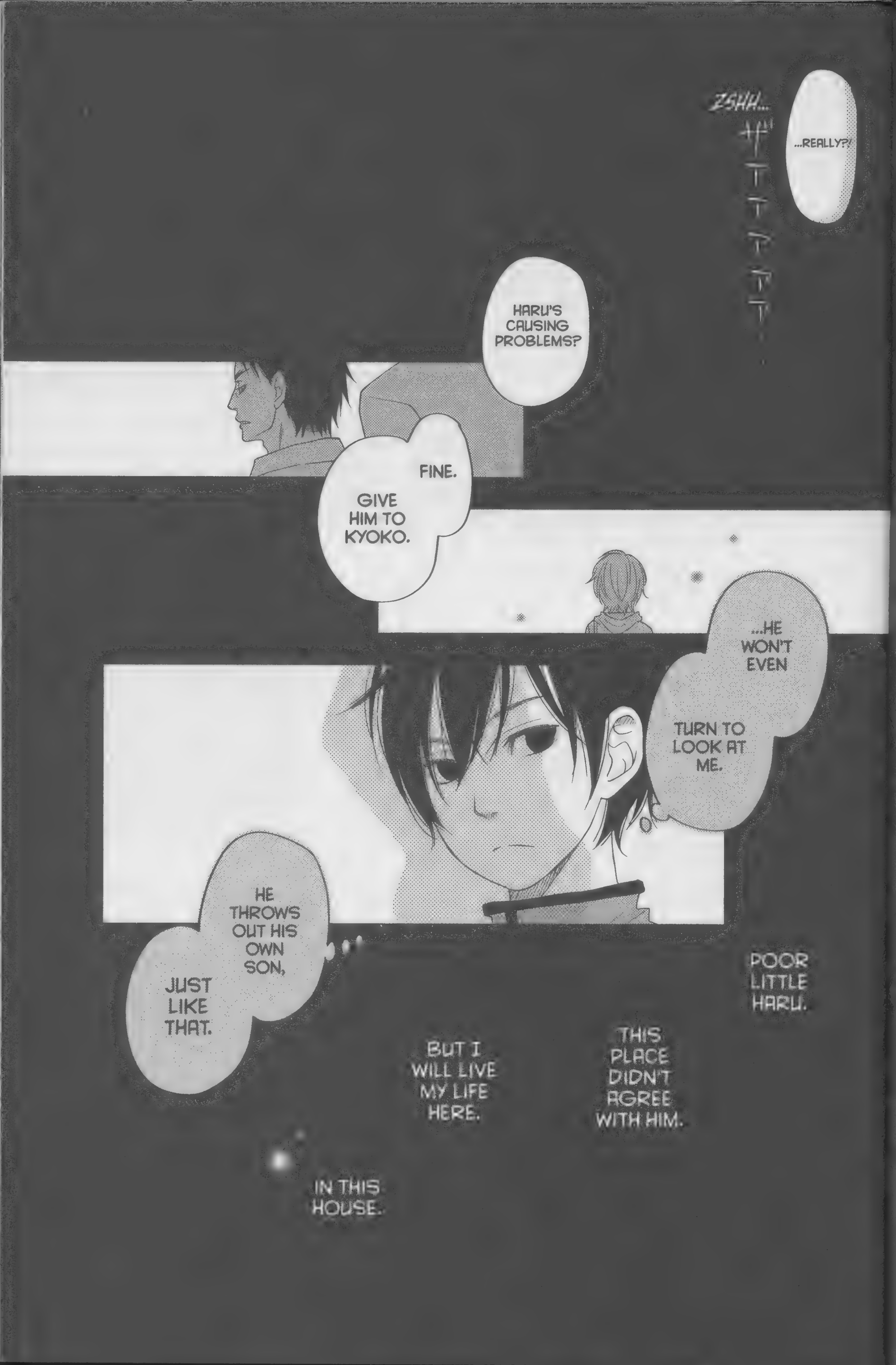

...HARU HAS ALWAYS BEEN A VERY BRIGHT BOY.
NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRIED, HE WAS ALWAYS GETTING AHEAD OF ME.
THAT'S WHY I GOT HIM KICKED OUT.
TO BE HONEST,
I WAS RELIEVED WHEN HE LEFT.
ID YOU MAKE URE TO THANK HER?
HARU CAN DECIDE FOR HIMSELF IF HE WANTS TO GO TO COLLEGE.
NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO TELL HIM WHAT TO DO.
た TEP た TEP た TEP...
SIS... SHE GAVE ME EXTRA CREAM.
SHE SAID IT WAS BECAUSE I'M SO CUTE.
SHE SAID I WAS CUTE.
TAKAYA.

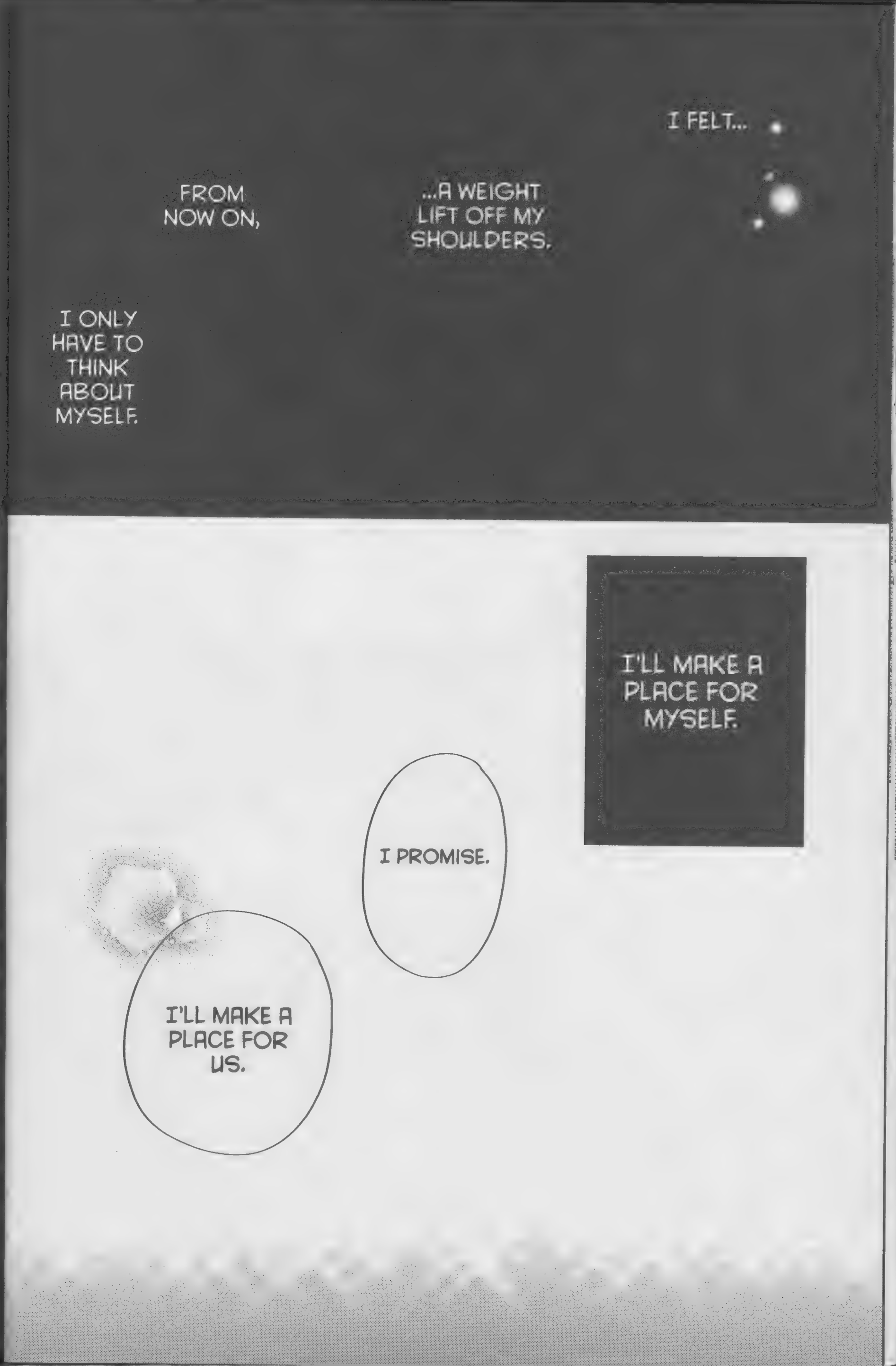

DID YOU MAKE SURE TO THANK HER?
SHE WAS SO PRETTY...
...SHIZUKU-CHAN, TAKAYA-KUN,
YOU'RE VERY CLOSE, AREN'T YOU?
THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL.
...SHIZUKU-CHAN.
THANK YOU.
FOR WORRYING...
...ABOUT HARU.

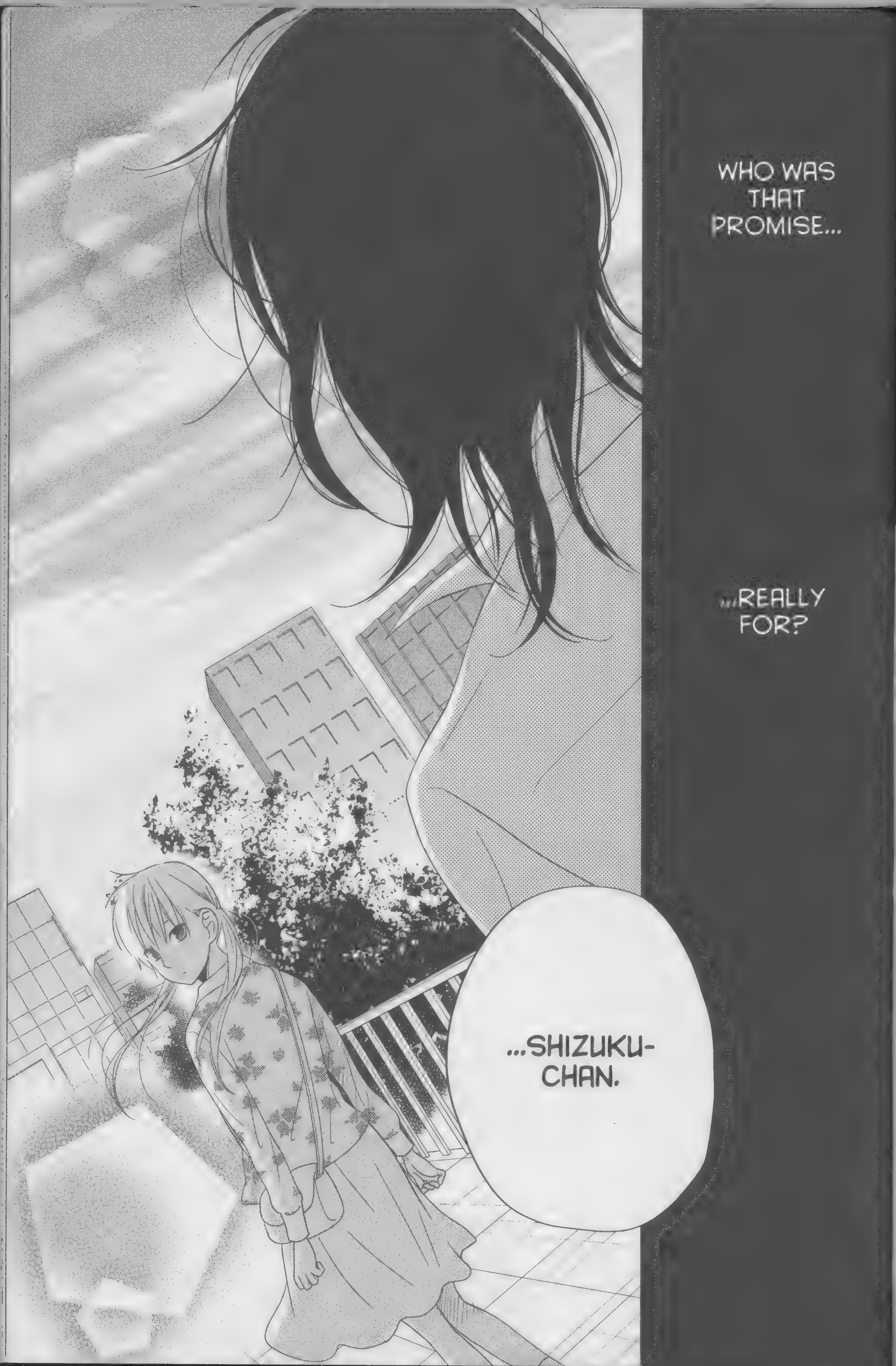

ZSHH...
ザアッ
WHEN HARU SAID HE WASN'T GOING TO COLLEGE...
THERE WAS A PART OF ME...
...THAT COULDN'T FORGIVE HIM.
I DON'T KNOW WHY,
BUT AT THE TIME,
I WAS JEALOUS OF HARU.

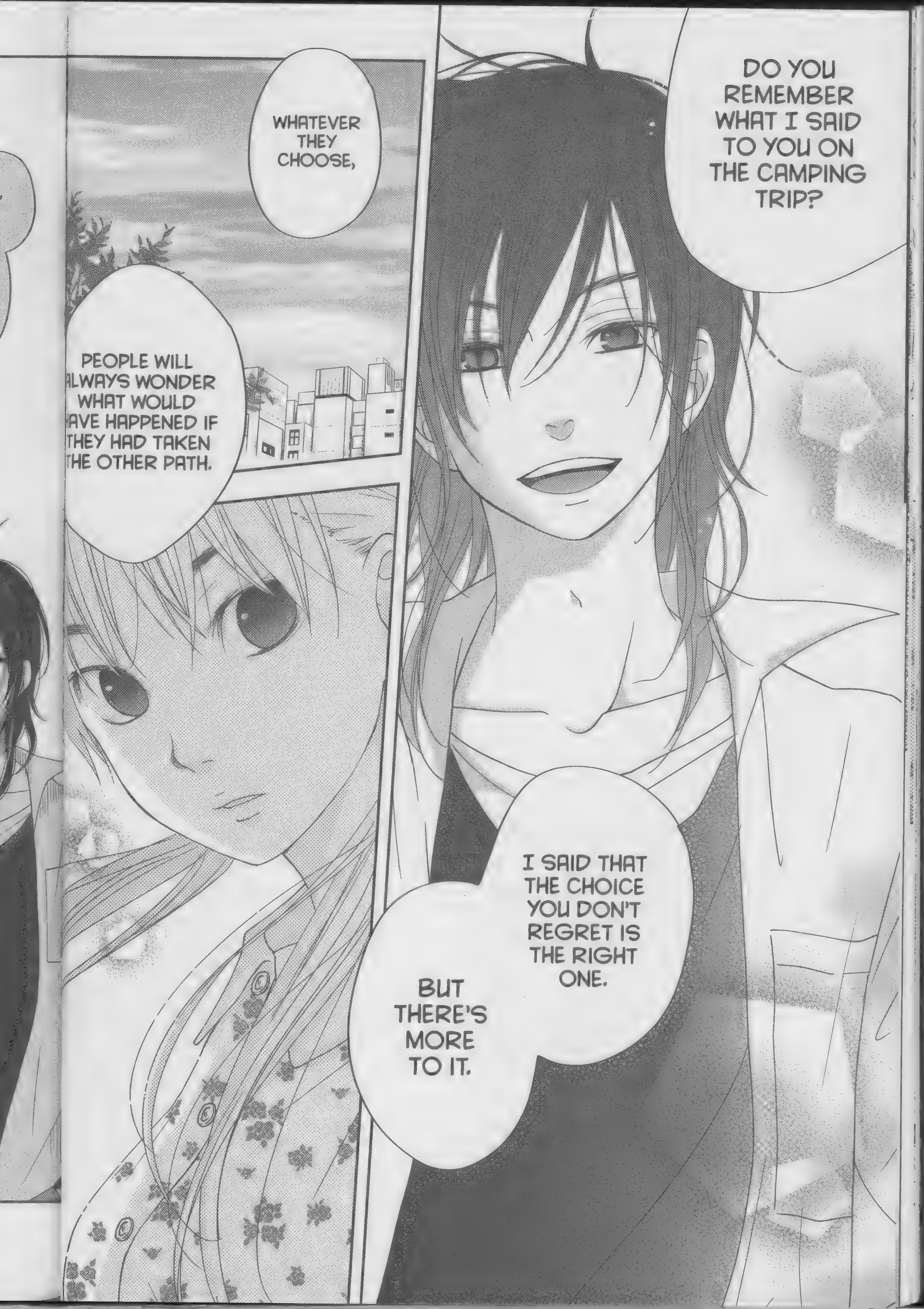

ZSHHH
ザーァーァーァーァ

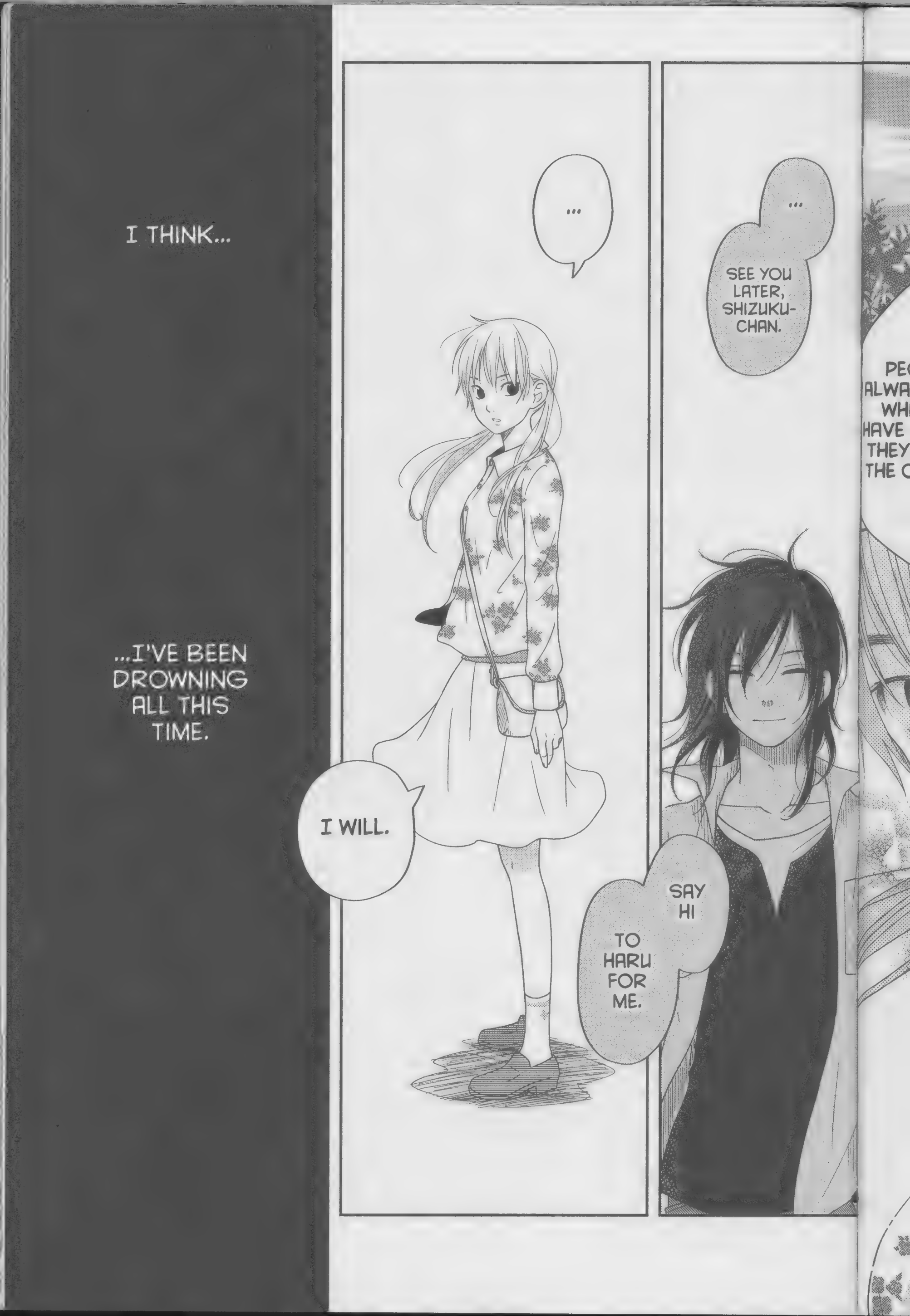

ザアアアアアアアアアア
ZSHHHHH
...YOU'RE LUCKY,
HARU.
I BET YOU'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT
HOW I FEEL WHEN I LOOK AT YOU.
YOU WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND...
...HOW I FEEL.
...

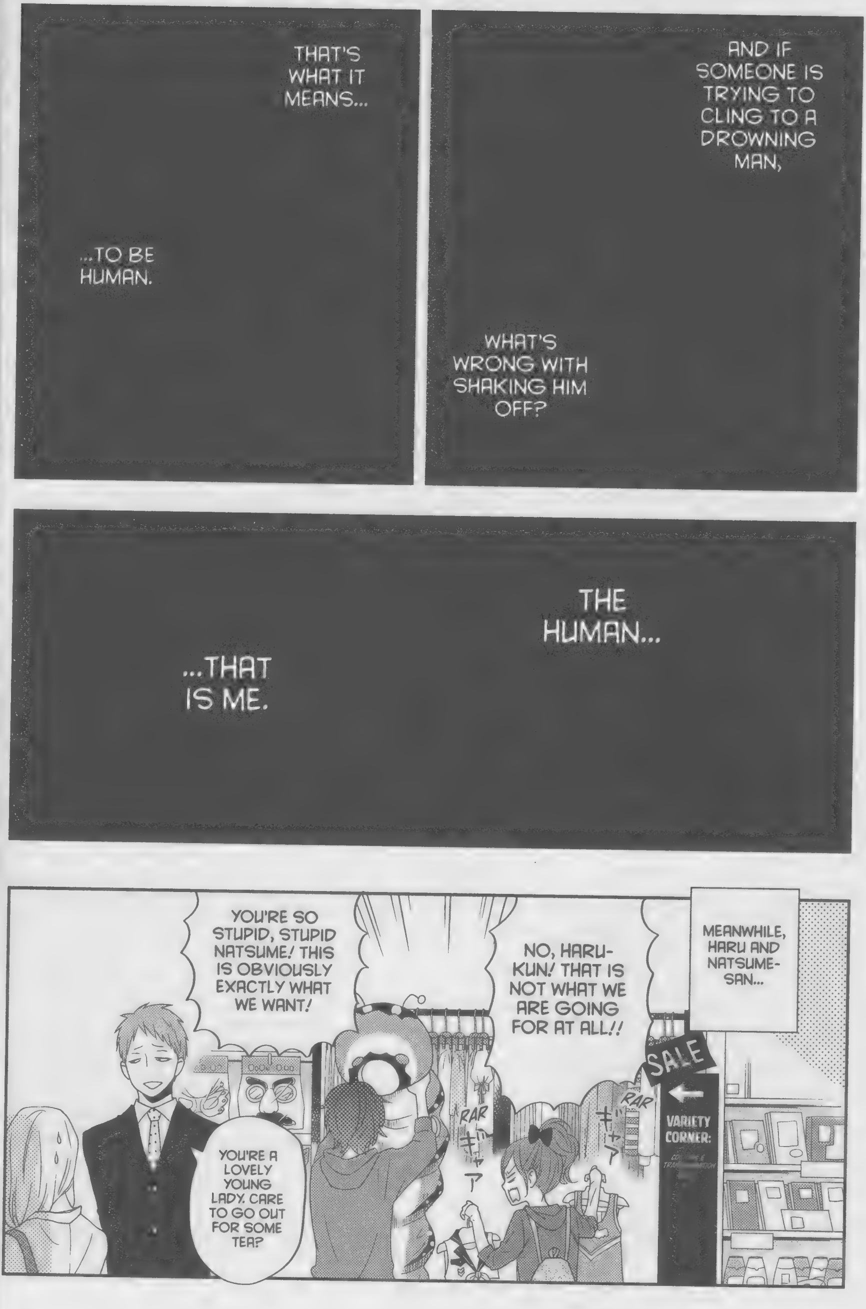

...REALLY?!
ZSHH...
ザァァァァァ
HARU'S CAUSING PROBLEMS?
FINE.
GIVE HIM TO KYOKO.
...HE WON'T EVEN
TURN TO LOOK AT ME.
HE THROWS OUT HIS OWN SON,
JUST LIKE THAT.
POOR LITTLE HARU.
THIS PLACE DIDN'T AGREE WITH HIM.
BUT I WILL LIVE MY LIFE HERE.
IN THIS HOUSE.


I FELT...
...A WEIGHT LIFT OFF MY SHOULDERS.
FROM NOW ON,
I ONLY HAVE TO THINK ABOUT MYSELF.
I'LL MAKE A PLACE FOR MYSELF.
I PROMISE.
I'LL MAKE A PLACE FOR US.

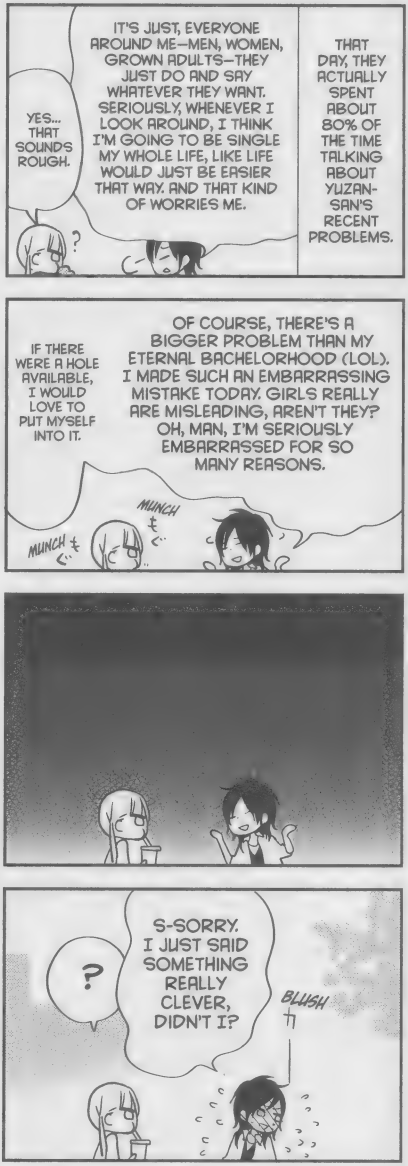

WHO WAS THAT PROMISE...
...REALLY FOR?
...SHIZUKU-CHAN.


DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT I SAID TO YOU ON THE CAMPING TRIP?
I SAID THAT THE CHOICE YOU DON'T REGRET IS THE RIGHT ONE.
BUT THERE'S MORE TO IT.
WHATEVER THEY CHOOSE,
PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS WONDER WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF THEY HAD TAKEN THE OTHER PATH.

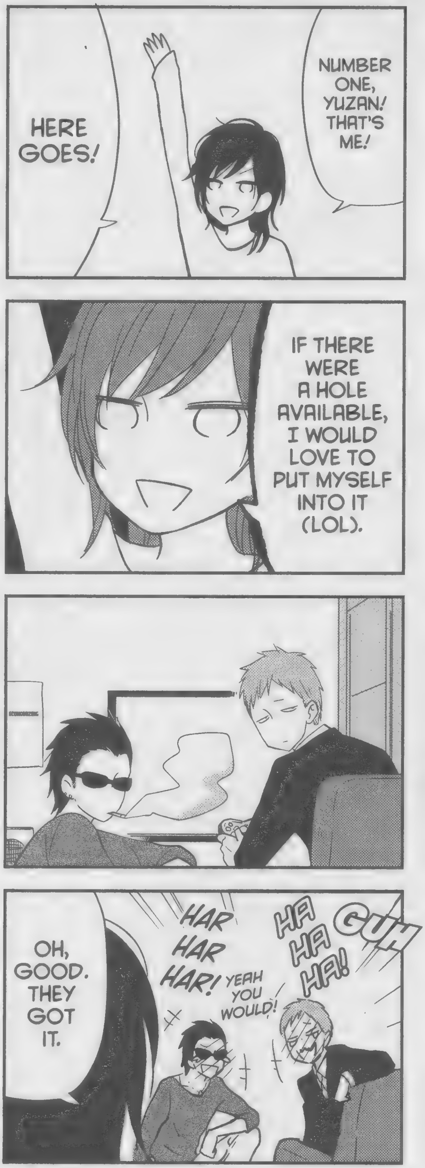

...
SEE YOU LATER, SHIZUKU-CHAN.
SAY HI
TO HARU FOR ME.
...
I WILL.
I THINK...
...I'VE BEEN DROWNING ALL THIS TIME.


AND IF SOMEONE IS TRYING TO CLING TO A DROWNING MAN,
WHAT'S WRONG WITH SHAKING HIM OFF?
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS...
...TO BE HUMAN.
THE HUMAN...
...THAT IS ME.
MEANWHILE, HARU AND NATSUME-SAN...
SALE
VARIETY CORNER:
RAR ギャア
NO, HARU-KUN! THAT IS NOT WHAT WE ARE GOING FOR AT ALL!!
RAR ギャア
YOU'RE SO STUPID, STUPID NATSUME! THIS IS OBVIOUSLY EXACTLY WHAT WE WANT!
YOU'RE A LOVELY YOUNG LADY. CARE TO GO OUT FOR SOME TEA?

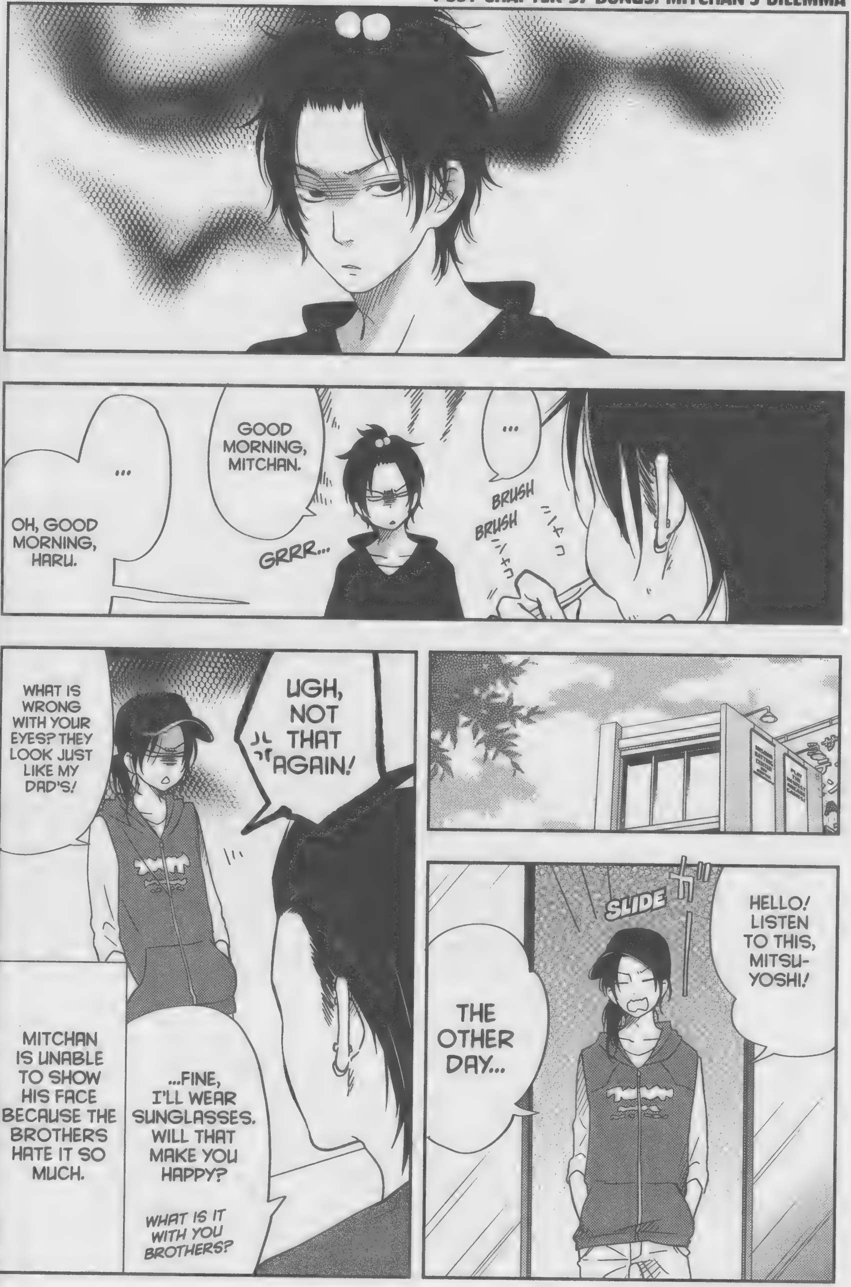
A JOKE BY THE HUMAN THAT IS ME, PART 1

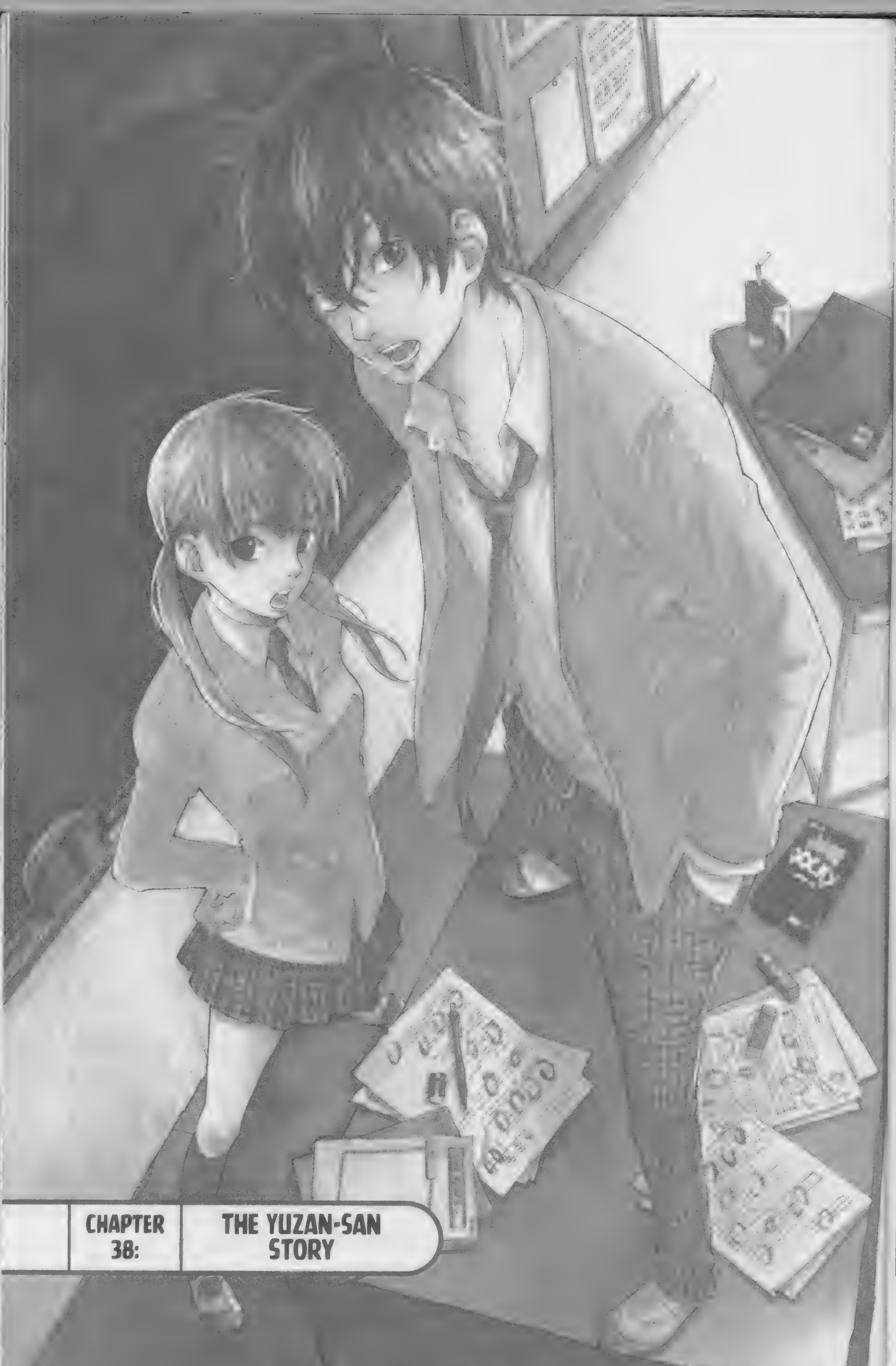

THAT DAY, THEY ACTUALLY SPENT ABOUT 80% OF THE TIME TALKING ABOUT YUZAN-SAN'S RECENT PROBLEMS.
IT'S JUST, EVERYONE AROUND ME—MEN, WOMEN, GROWN ADULTS—THEY JUST DO AND SAY WHATEVER THEY WANT. SERIOUSLY, WHENEVER I LOOK AROUND, I THINK I'M GOING TO BE SINGLE MY WHOLE LIFE, LIKE LIFE WOULD JUST BE EASIER THAT WAY. AND THAT KIND OF WORRIES ME.
YES... THAT SOUNDS ROUGH.
?
OF COURSE, THERE'S A BIGGER PROBLEM THAN MY ETERNAL BACHELORHOOD (LOL). I MADE SUCH AN EMBARRASSING MISTAKE TODAY. GIRLS REALLY ARE MISLEADING, AREN'T THEY? OH, MAN, I'M SERIOUSLY EMBARRASSED FOR SO MANY REASONS.
IF THERE WERE A HOLE AVAILABLE, I WOULD LOVE TO PUT MYSELF INTO IT.
MUNCH
MUNCH
S-SORRY. I JUST SAID SOMETHING REALLY CLEVER, DIDN'T I?
?
BLUSH

A JOKE BY THE HUMAN THAT IS ME, PART 2


NUMBER ONE, YUZAN! THAT'S ME!
HERE GOES!
IF THERE WERE A HOLE AVAILABLE, I WOULD LOVE TO PUT MYSELF INTO IT (LOL).
HA HA HA! GUH
HAR HAR HAR!
YEAH YOU WOULD!
OH, GOOD. THEY GOT IT.

POST-CHAPTER-37 BONUS: MITCHAN'S DILEMMA

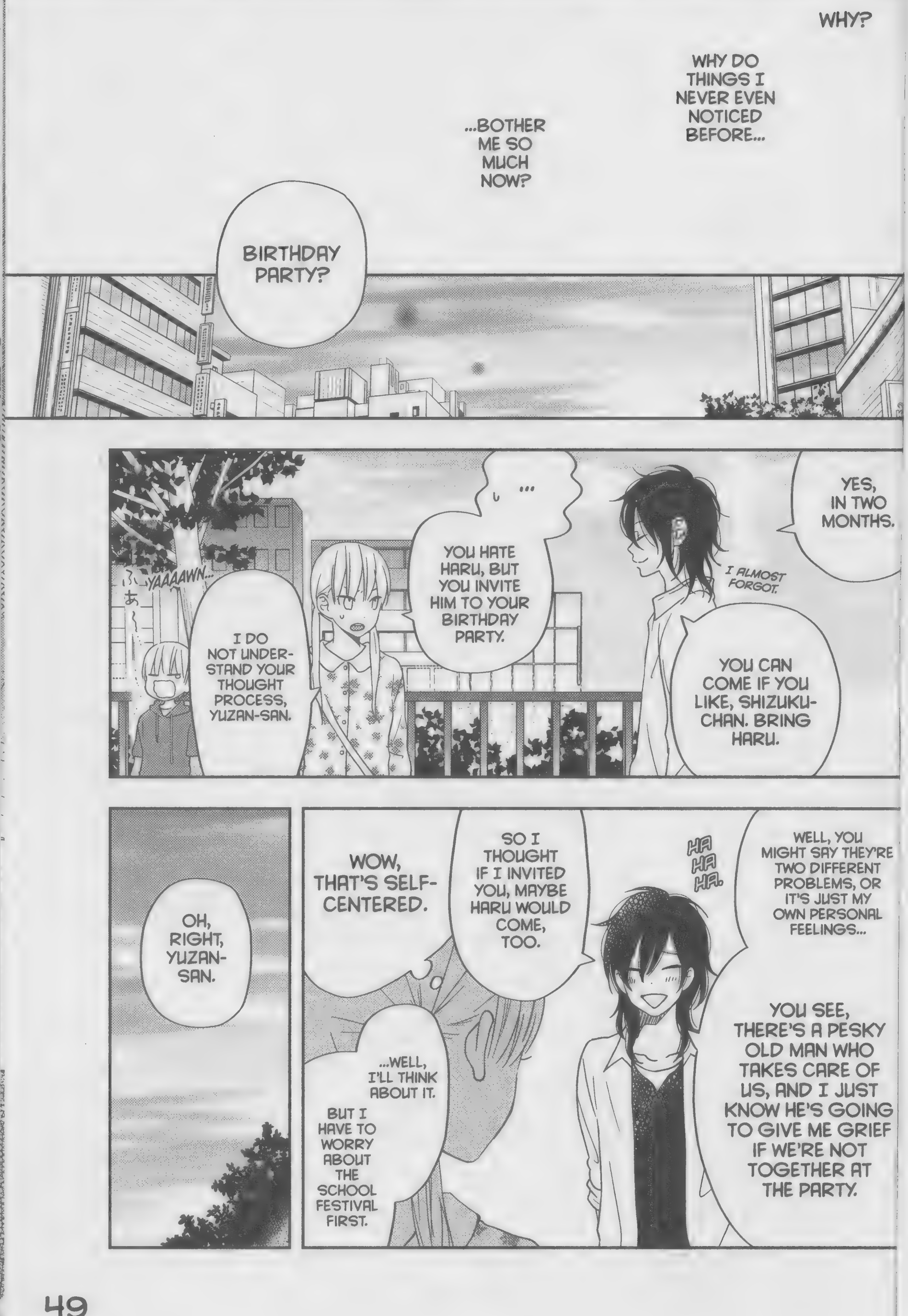

...
BRUSH
BRUSH
シャコ
シャコ
GRRR...
GOOD MORNING, MITCHAN.
...
OH, GOOD MORNING, HARU.
SLIDE
ガー
HELLO! LISTEN TO THIS, MITSUYOSHI!
THE OTHER DAY...
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOUR EYES? THEY LOOK JUST LIKE MY DAD'S!
UGH, NOT THAT AGAIN!
...FINE, I'LL WEAR SUNGLASSES. WILL THAT MAKE YOU HAPPY?
WHAT IS IT WITH YOU BROTHERS?
MITCHAN IS UNABLE TO SHOW HIS FACE BECAUSE THE BROTHERS HATE IT SO MUCH.

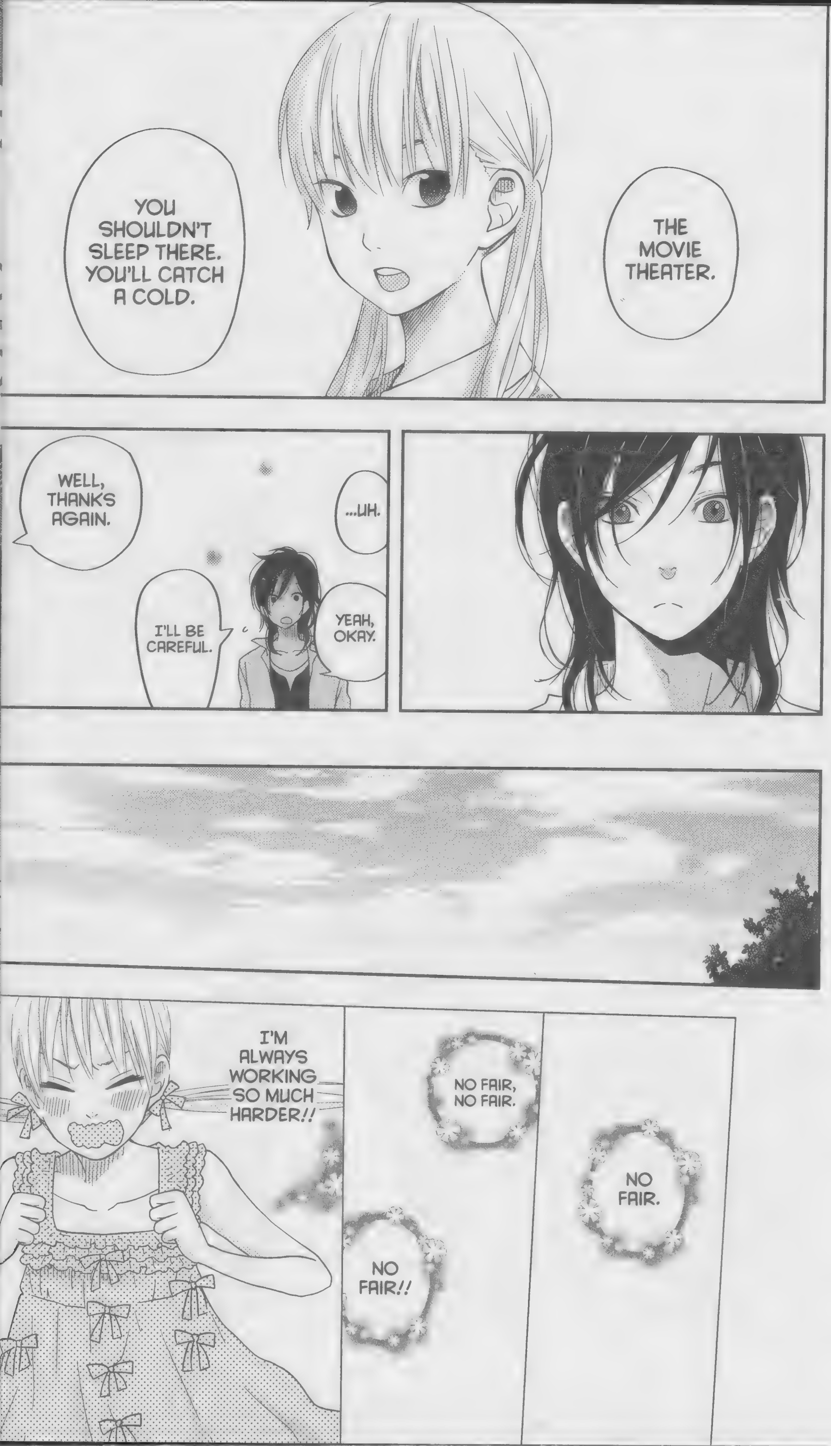


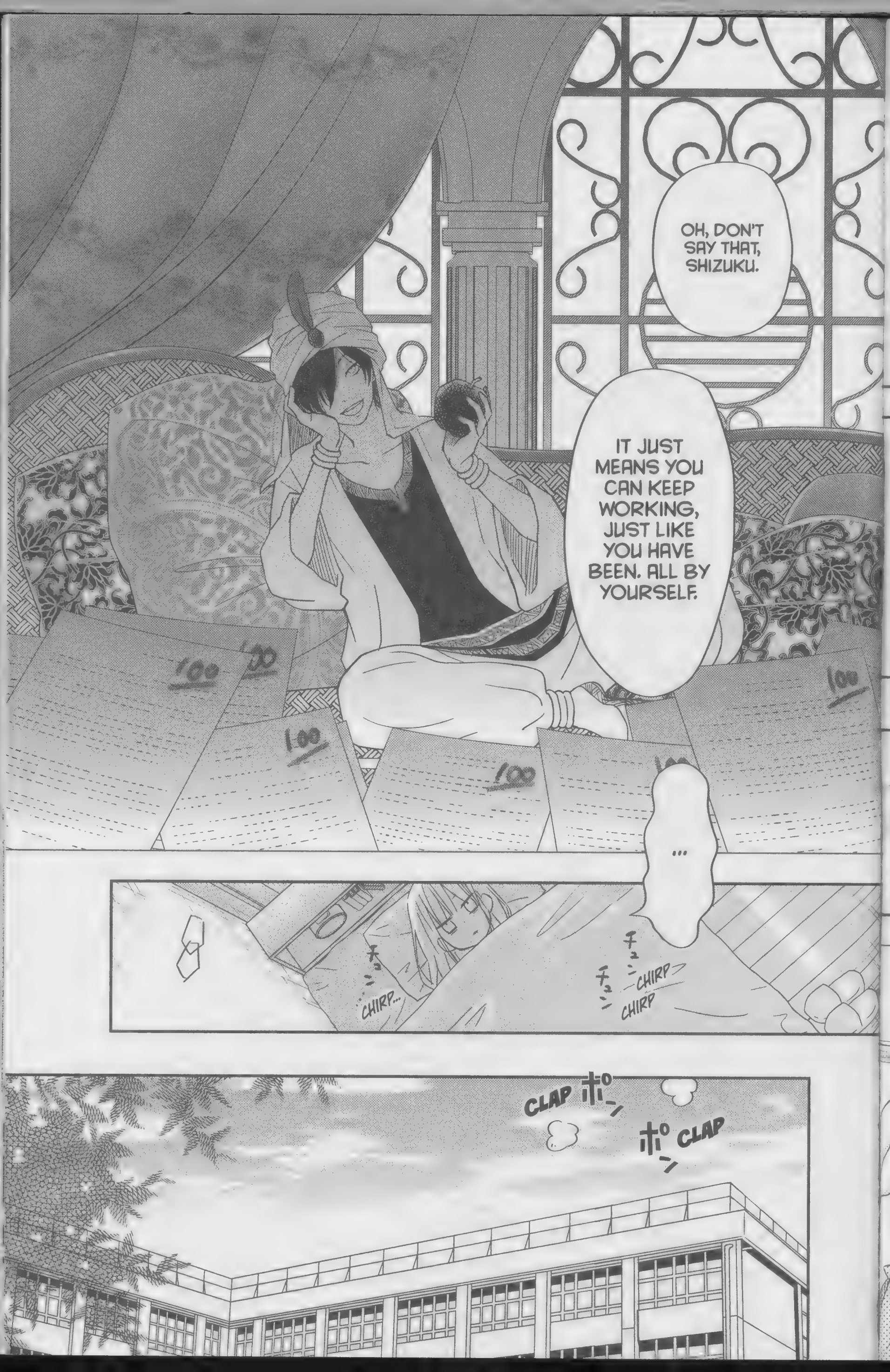
CHAPTER 38: THE YUZAN-SAN STORY

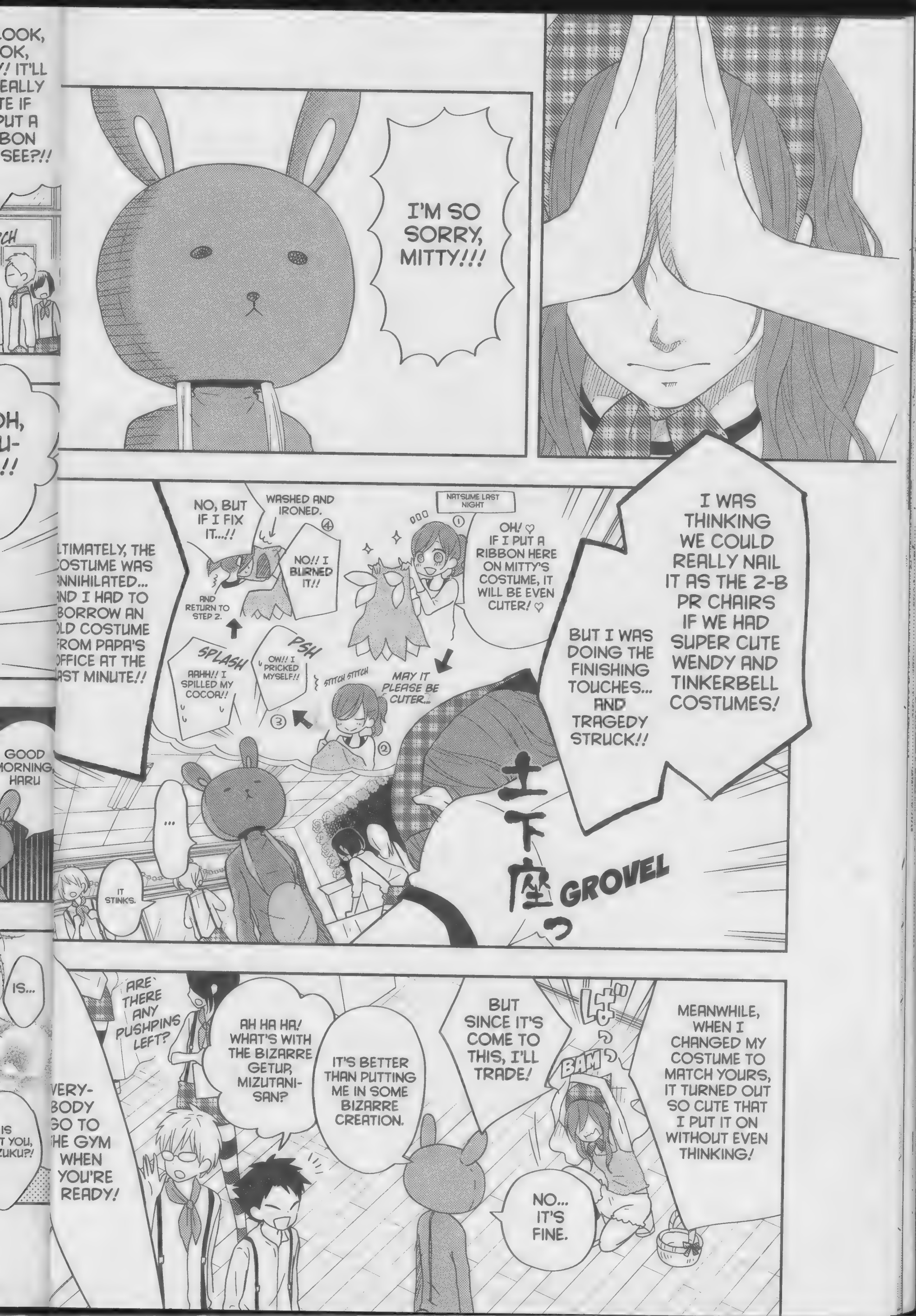
OH,
MOR
H
WH
WR
WITH
EYES
LOO
LIK
DA
MI
IS L
TO
HIS
BECA
BRO
HAT
M

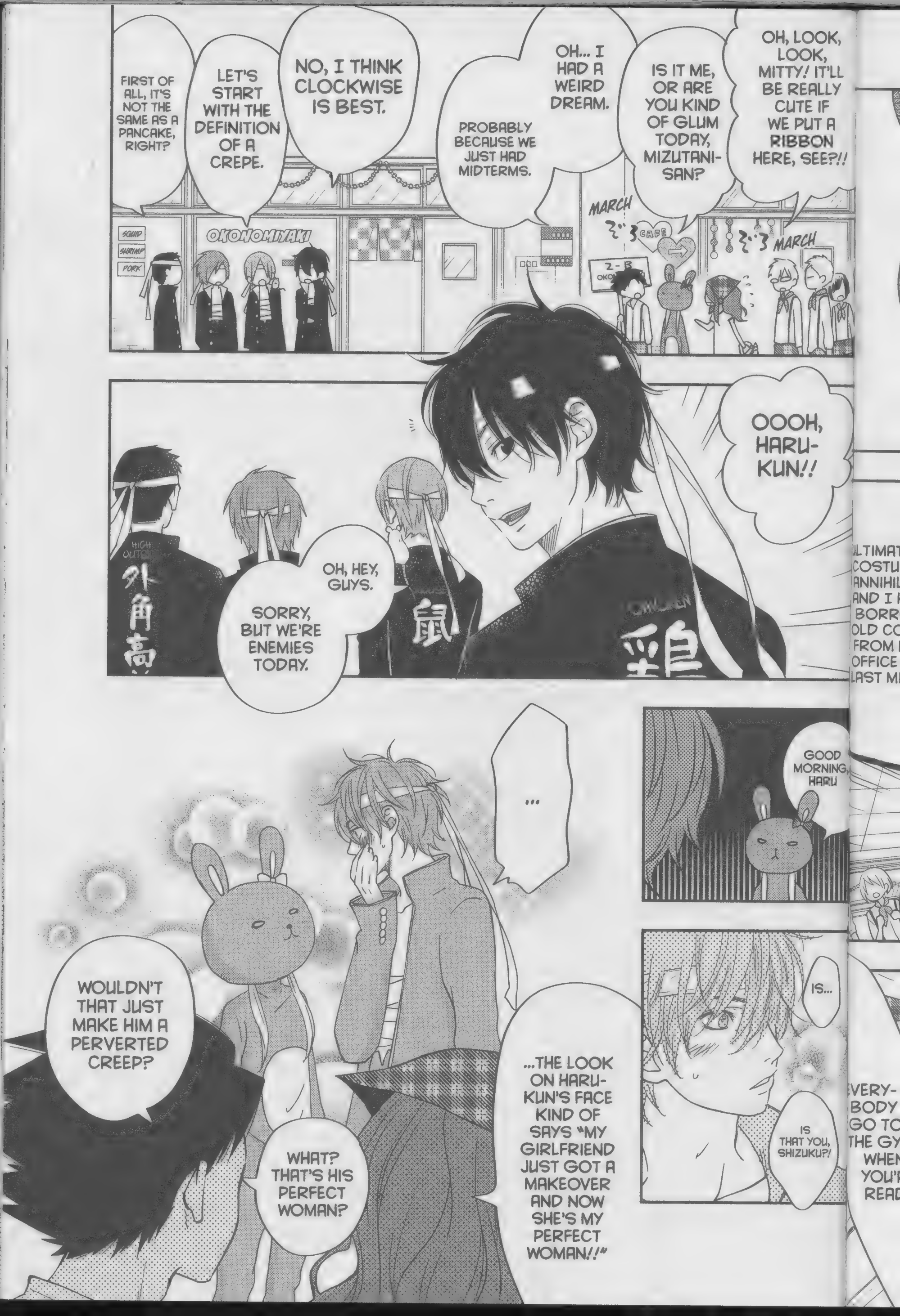
Wendy & Tinker Bell
HEE HEE HEE...

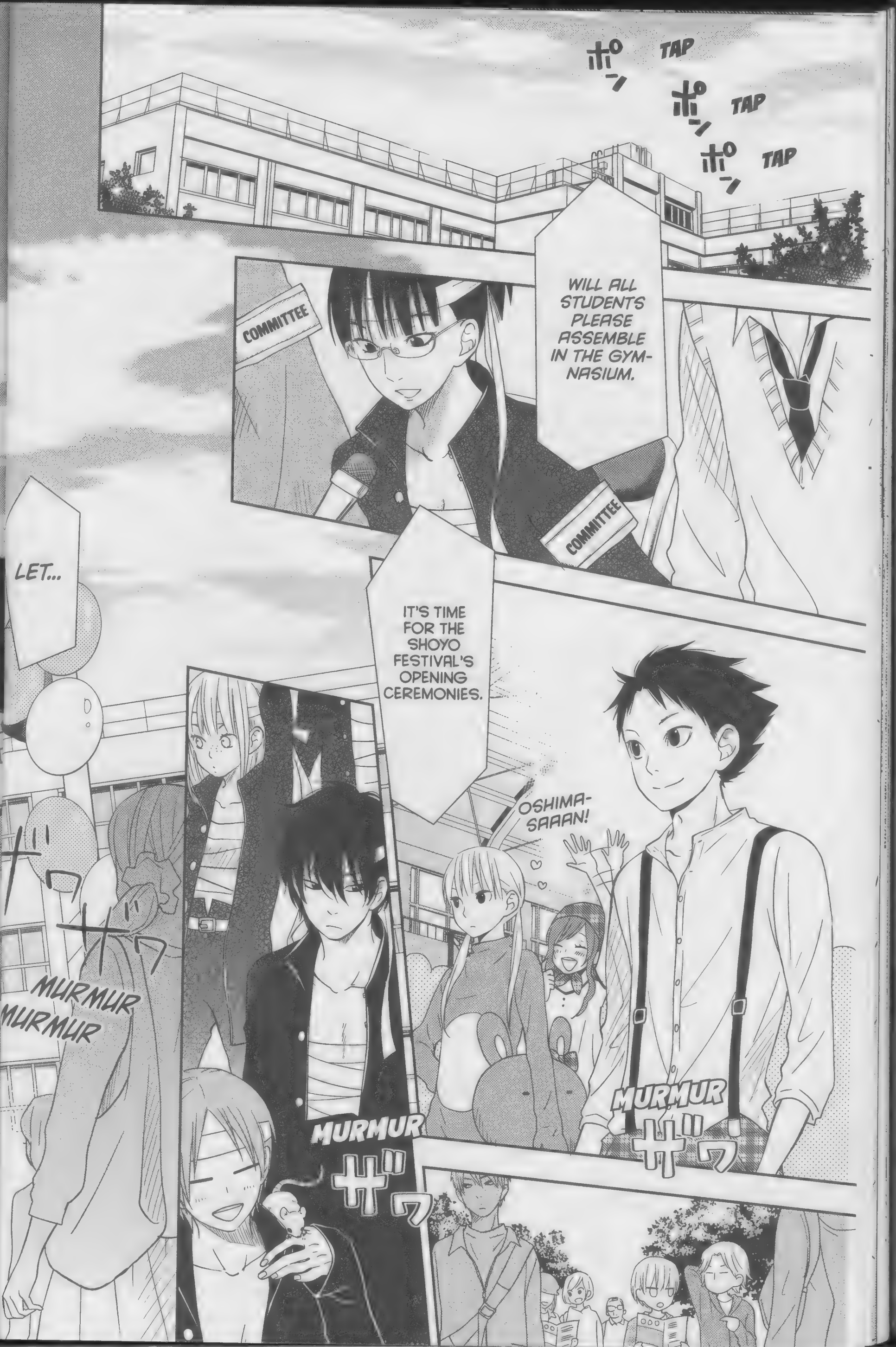

WHY?
WHY DO THINGS I NEVER EVEN NOTICED BEFORE...
...BOTHER ME SO MUCH NOW?
BIRTHDAY PARTY?
YES, IN TWO MONTHS.
I ALMOST FORGOT.
YOU CAN COME IF YOU LIKE, SHIZUKU-CHAN. BRING HARU.
...
YOU HATE HARU, BUT YOU INVITE HIM TO YOUR BIRTHDAY PARTY.
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND YOUR THOUGHT PROCESS, YUZAN-SAN.
ふあ〜 YAAAAWN...
WELL, YOU MIGHT SAY THEY'RE TWO DIFFERENT PROBLEMS, OR IT'S JUST MY OWN PERSONAL FEELINGS...
HA HA HA.
YOU SEE, THERE'S A PESKY OLD MAN WHO TAKES CARE OF US, AND I JUST KNOW HE'S GOING TO GIVE ME GRIEF IF WE'RE NOT TOGETHER AT THE PARTY.
SO I THOUGHT IF I INVITED YOU, MAYBE HARU WOULD COME, TOO.
WOW, THAT'S SELF-CENTERED.
...WELL, I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
BUT I HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL FIRST.
OH, RIGHT, YUZAN-SAN.

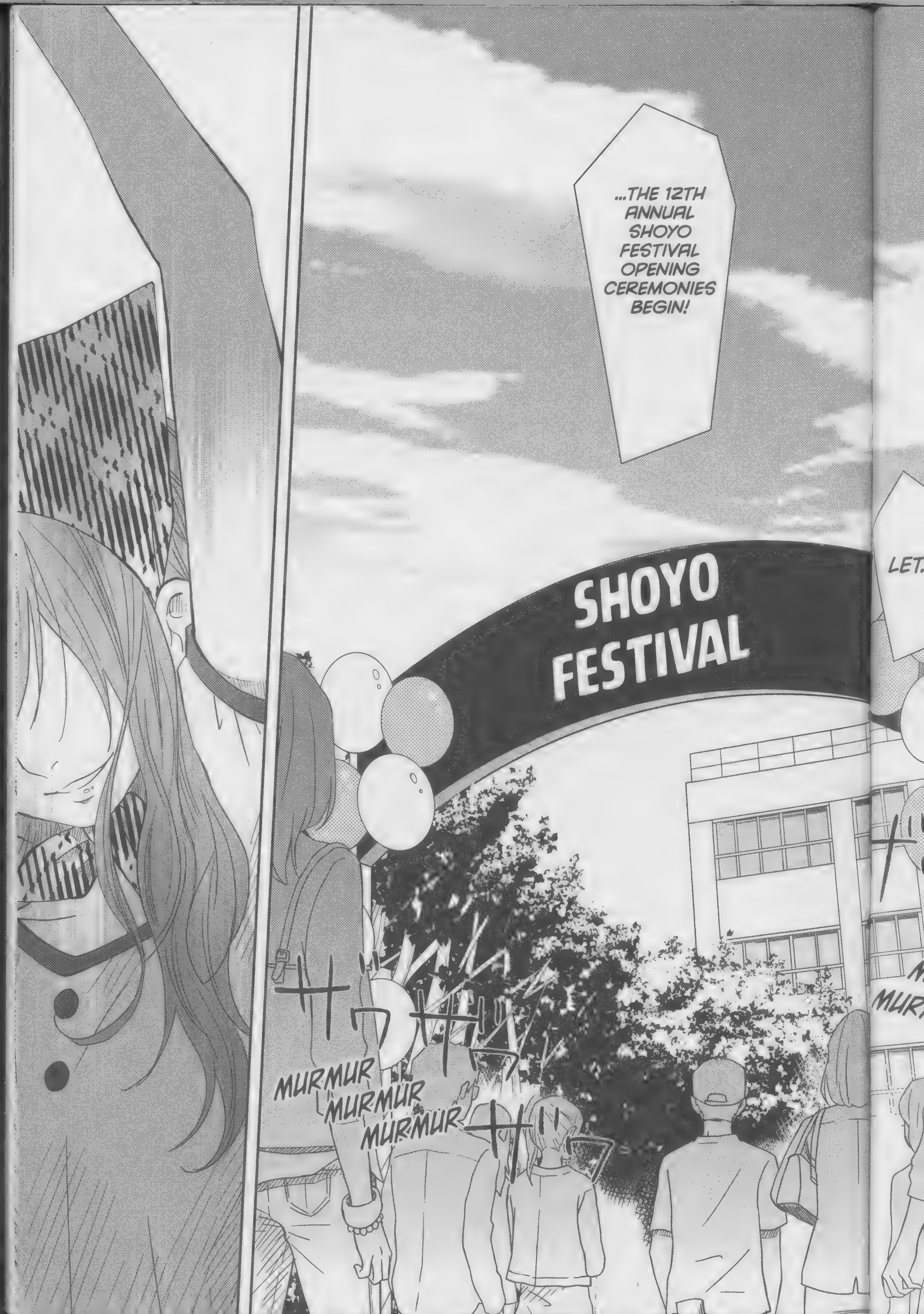

THE MOVIE THEATER.
YOU SHOULDN'T SLEEP THERE. YOU'LL CATCH A COLD.
...UH.
WELL, THANKS AGAIN.
YEAH, OKAY.
I'LL BE CAREFUL.
NO FAIR.
NO FAIR, NO FAIR.
NO FAIR!!
I'M ALWAYS WORKING SO MUCH HARDER!!

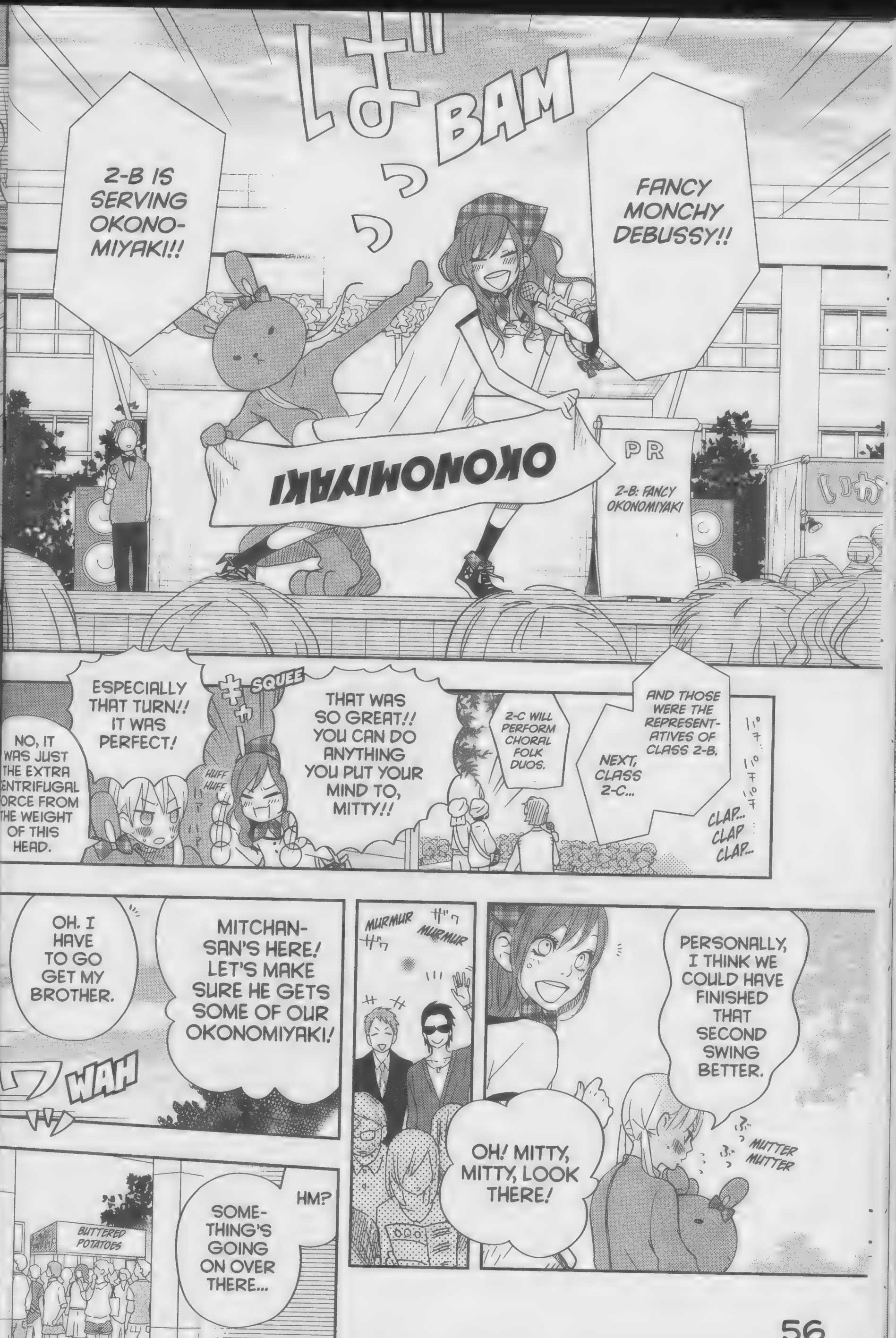

OH, DON'T SAY THAT, SHIZUKU.
IT JUST MEANS YOU CAN KEEP WORKING, JUST LIKE YOU HAVE BEEN. ALL BY YOURSELF.
100
...
チュン CHIRP
チュン CHIRP
チュン CHIRP...
ポン CLAP
ポン CLAP

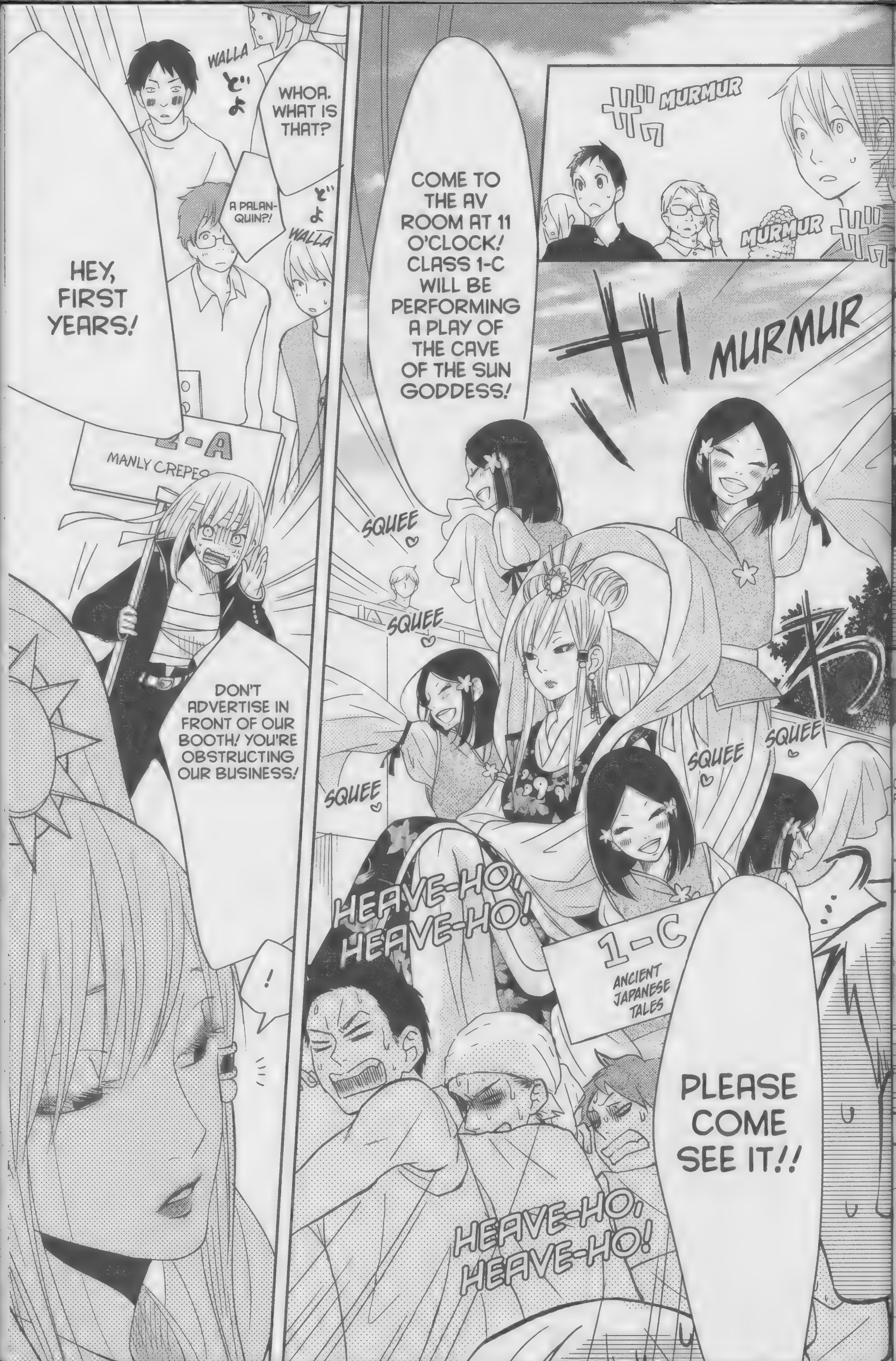

I'M SO SORRY, MITTY!!!
I WAS THINKING WE COULD REALLY NAIL IT AS THE 2-B PR CHAIRS IF WE HAD SUPER CUTE WENDY AND TINKERBELL COSTUMES!
BUT I WAS DOING THE FINISHING TOUCHES... AND TRAGEDY STRUCK!!
NATSUME LAST NIGHT
① OH! ♡ IF I PUT A RIBBON HERE ON MITTY'S COSTUME, IT WILL BE EVEN CUTER! ♡
② MAY IT PLEASE BE CUTER...
STITCH STITCH
③ PSH OW!! I PRICKED MYSELF!!
SPLASH AAHH!! I SPILLED MY COCOA!!
④ NO!! I BURNED IT!!
WASHED AND IRONED.
NO, BUT IF I FIX IT...!!
AND RETURN TO STEP 2.
LTIMATELY, THE OSTUME WAS NNIHILATED... ND I HAD TO BORROW AN LD COSTUME FROM PAPA'S OFFICE AT THE AST MINUTE!!
土下座 GROVEL
...
IT STINKS.
MEANWHILE, WHEN I CHANGED MY COSTUME TO MATCH YOURS, IT TURNED OUT SO CUTE THAT I PUT IT ON WITHOUT EVEN THINKING!
ばっ BAM
BUT SINCE IT'S COME TO THIS, I'LL TRADE!
NO... IT'S FINE.
IT'S BETTER THAN PUTTING ME IN SOME BIZARRE CREATION.
AH HA HA! WHAT'S WITH THE BIZARRE GETUP, MIZUTANI-SAN?
ARE THERE ANY PUSHPINS LEFT?
VERY-BODY GO TO THE GYM WHEN YOU'RE READY!
LOOK, OOK, ! IT'LL EALLY TE IF PUT A BON SEE?!!
OH, U- !!
GOOD MORNING, HARU
IS...
IS T YOU, ZUKU?!

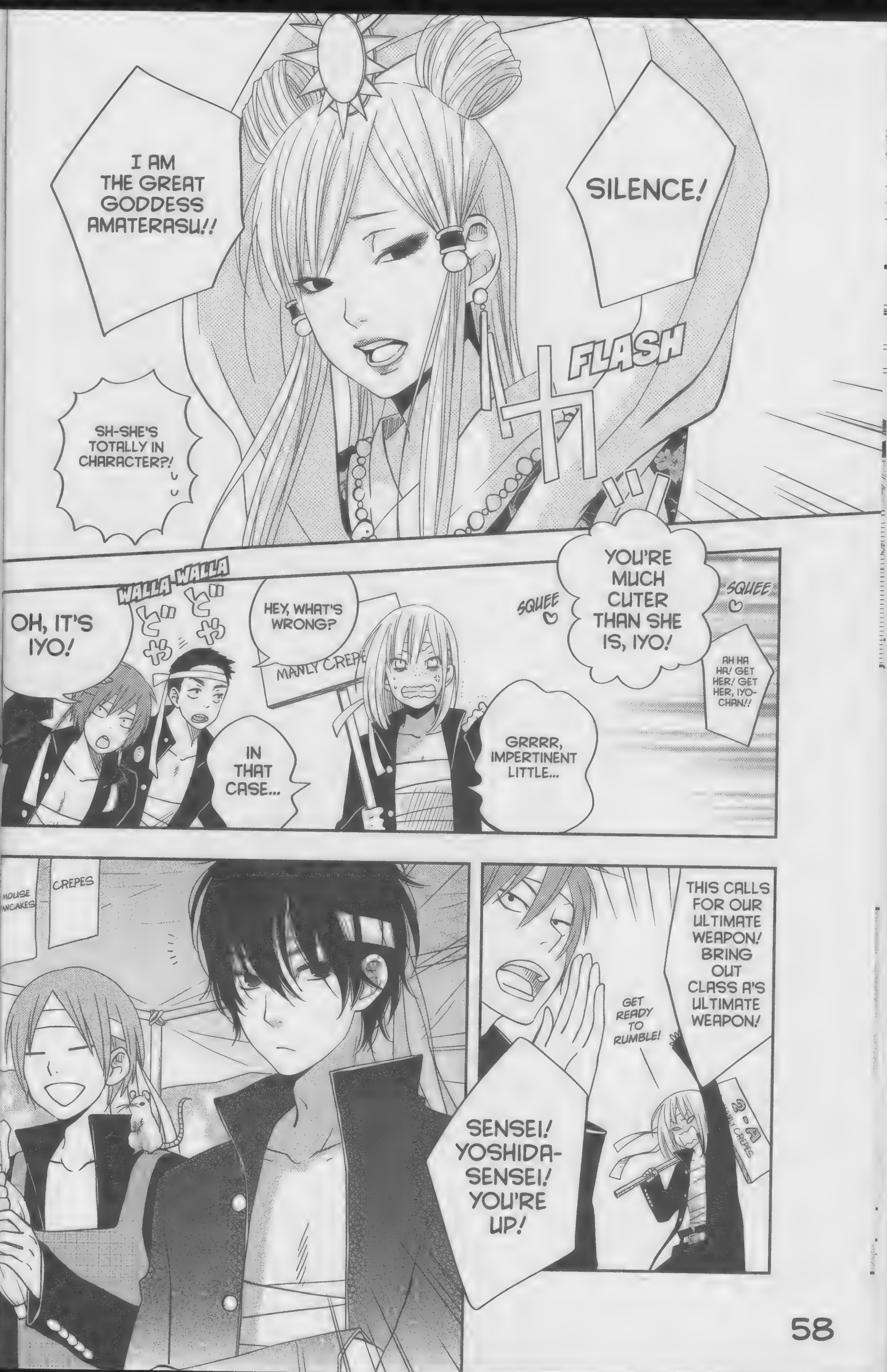

OH, LOOK, LOOK, MITTY! IT'LL BE REALLY CUTE IF WE PUT A RIBBON HERE, SEE?!!
IS IT ME, OR ARE YOU KIND OF GLUM TODAY, MIZUTANI-SAN?
OH... I HAD A WEIRD DREAM.
PROBABLY BECAUSE WE JUST HAD MIDTERMS.
NO, I THINK CLOCKWISE IS BEST.
LET'S START WITH THE DEFINITION OF A CREPE.
FIRST OF ALL, IT'S NOT THE SAME AS A PANCAKE, RIGHT?
MARCH
CAFE
2-B
MARCH
OKONOMIYAKI
SQUID
SHRIMP
PORK
OOOH, HARU-KUN!!
OH, HEY, GUYS.
SORRY, BUT WE'RE ENEMIES TODAY.
HIGH OUTSI
外角高
鼠
LTIMAT COSTU ANNIHIL AND I H BORR OLD CO FROM I OFFICE LAST MI
GOOD MORNING, HARU
IS...
IS THAT YOU, SHIZUKU?!
VERY- BODY GO TO THE GY WHEN YOU'R READ
...
...THE LOOK ON HARU-KUN'S FACE KIND OF SAYS "MY GIRLFRIEND JUST GOT A MAKEOVER AND NOW SHE'S MY PERFECT WOMAN!!"
WHAT? THAT'S HIS PERFECT WOMAN?
WOULDN'T THAT JUST MAKE HIM A PERVERTED CREEP?

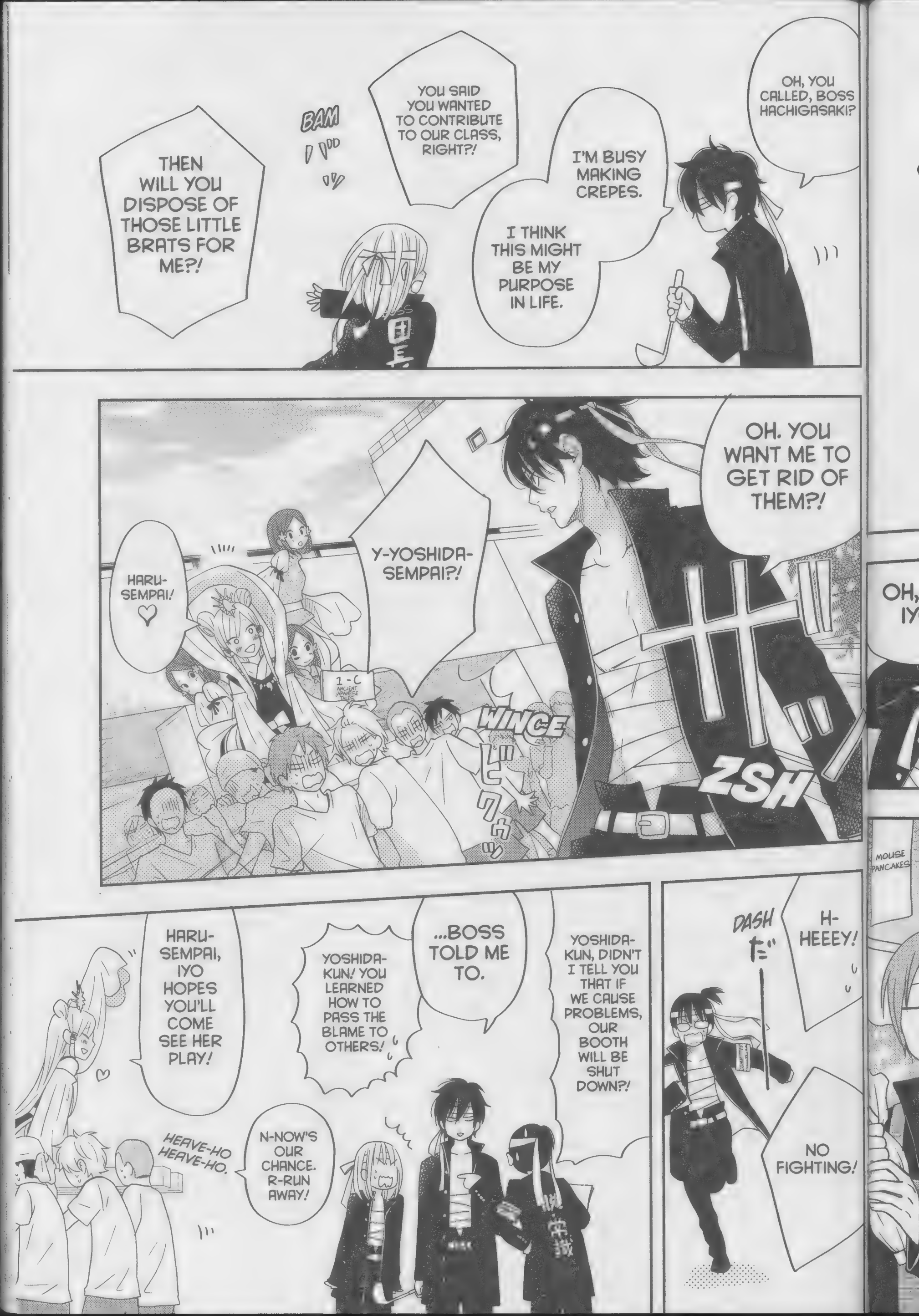

ポン TAP
ポン TAP
ポン TAP
WILL ALL STUDENTS PLEASE ASSEMBLE IN THE GYMNASIUM.
COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE
IT'S TIME FOR THE SHOYO FESTIVAL'S OPENING CEREMONIES.
LET...
OSHIMA-SAAAN!
MURMUR ザワ
MURMUR ザワ
ザワザワ
MURMUR MURMUR

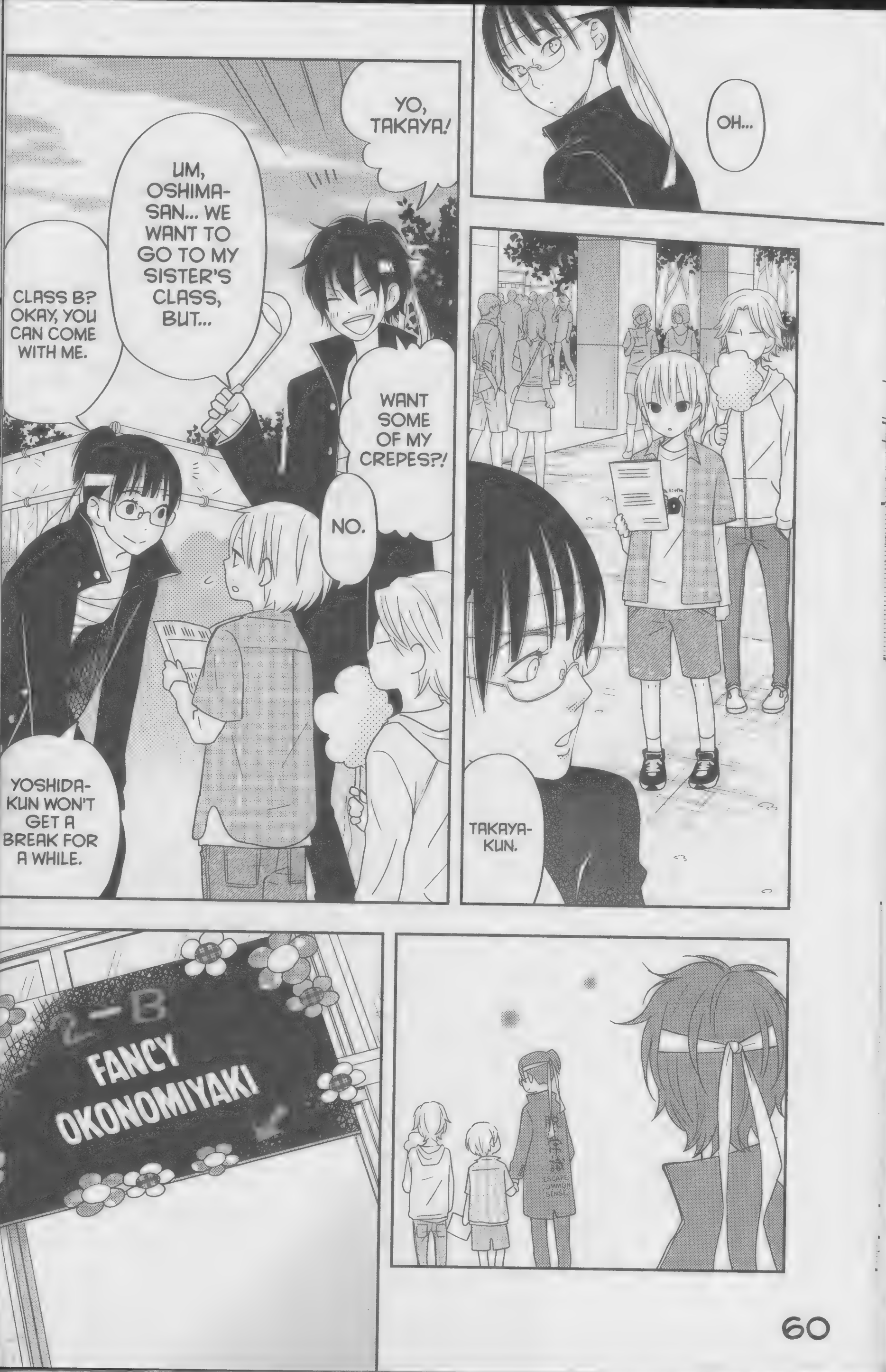

...THE 12TH ANNUAL SHOYO FESTIVAL OPENING CEREMONIES BEGIN!
SHOYO FESTIVAL
ザワ ザワ
MURMUR MURMUR MURMUR
ザワ

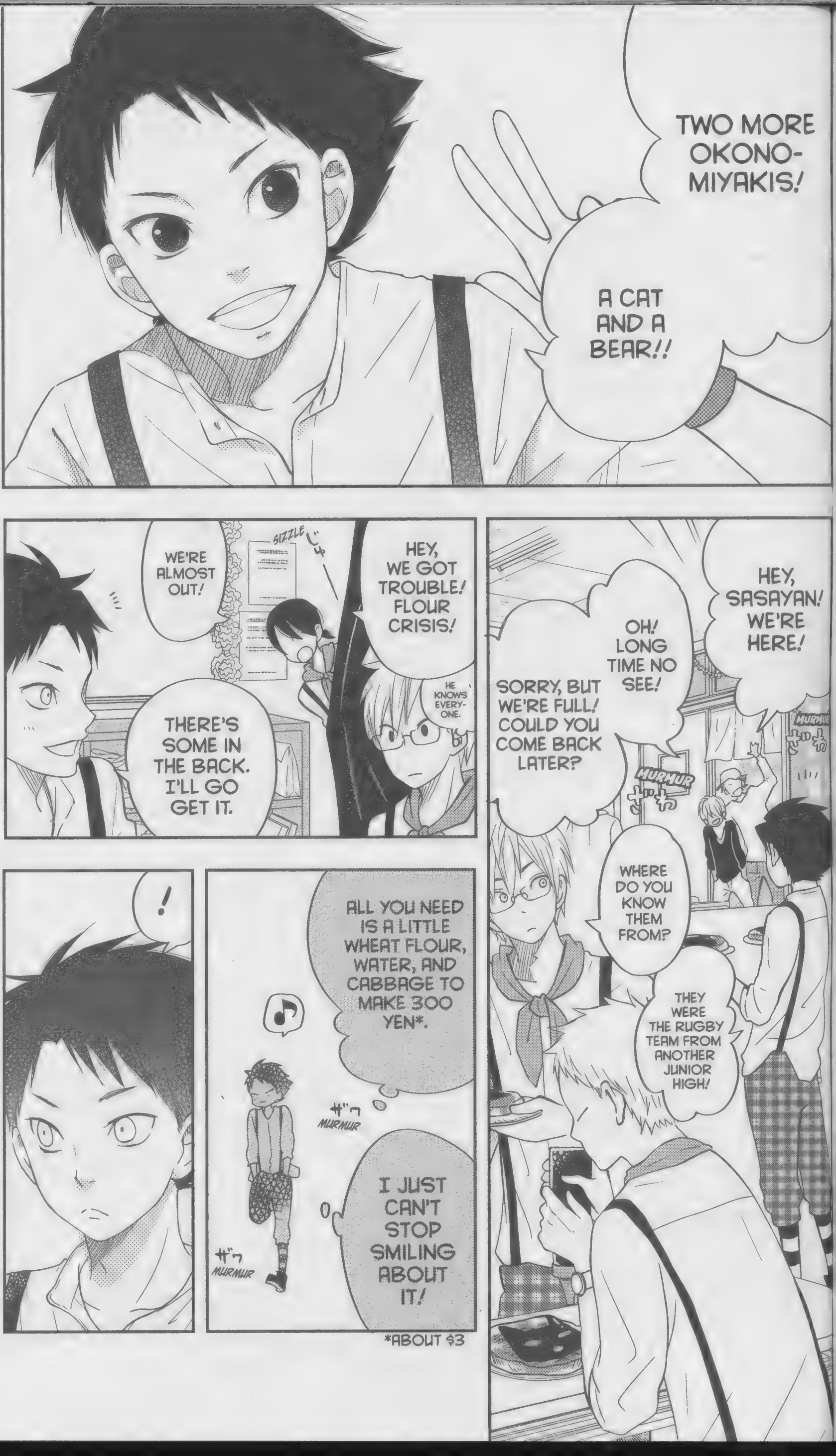

BAM
FANCY MONCHY DEBUSSY!!
2-B IS SERVING OKONO-MIYAKI!!
OKONOMIYAKI
PR
2-B: FANCY OKONOMIYAKI
AND THOSE WERE THE REPRESENT-ATIVES OF CLASS 2-B.
NEXT, CLASS 2-C...
CLAP... CLAP CLAP...
2-C WILL PERFORM CHORAL FOLK DUOS.
THAT WAS SO GREAT!! YOU CAN DO ANYTHING YOU PUT YOUR MIND TO, MITTY!!
SQUEE
ESPECIALLY THAT TURN!! IT WAS PERFECT!
HUFF HUFF
NO, IT WAS JUST THE EXTRA ENTRIFUGAL ORCE FROM THE WEIGHT OF THIS HEAD.
PERSONALLY, I THINK WE COULD HAVE FINISHED THAT SECOND SWING BETTER.
MUTTER MUTTER
MURMUR MURMUR
MITCHAN-SAN'S HERE! LET'S MAKE SURE HE GETS SOME OF OUR OKONOMIYAKI!
OH. I HAVE TO GO GET MY BROTHER.
WAH
OH! MITTY, MITTY, LOOK THERE!
HM?
SOME-THING'S GOING ON OVER THERE...
BUTTERED POTATOES


ザワ MURMUR
MURMUR ザワ
COME TO THE AV ROOM AT 11 O'CLOCK! CLASS 1-C WILL BE PERFORMING A PLAY OF THE CAVE OF THE SUN GODDESS!
MURMUR
SQUEE
SQUEE
SQUEE
SQUEE
SQUEE
HEAVE-HO! HEAVE-HO!
1-C
ANCIENT JAPANESE TALES
PLEASE COME SEE IT!!
HEAVE-HO, HEAVE-HO!
WALLA どよ
WHOA. WHAT IS THAT?
A PALAN-QUIN?!
どよ WALLA
HEY, FIRST YEARS!
1-A
MANLY CREPES
DON'T ADVERTISE IN FRONT OF OUR BOOTH! YOU'RE OBSTRUCTING OUR BUSINESS!
!

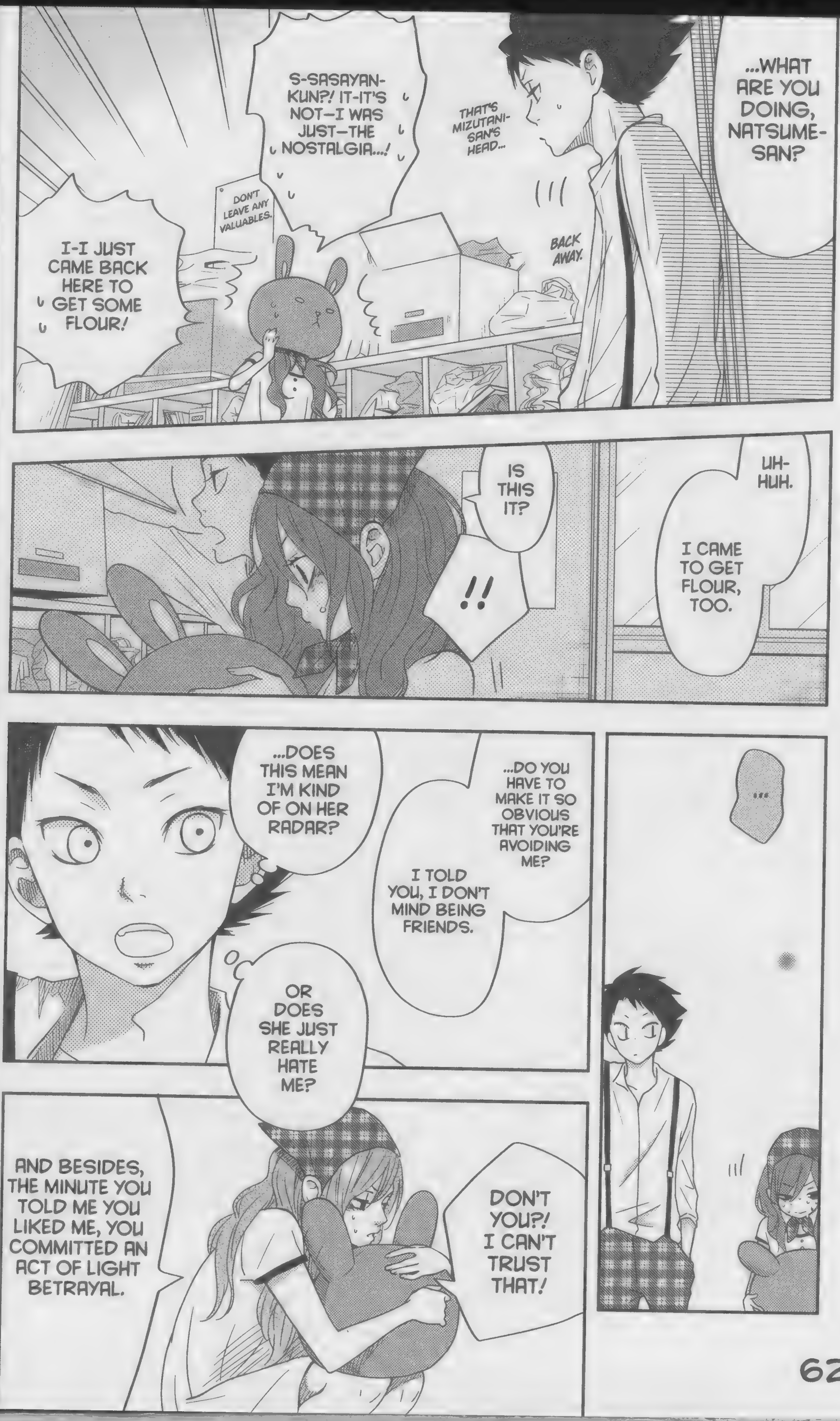

SILENCE!
I AM THE GREAT GODDESS AMATERASU!!
FLASH
SH-SHE'S TOTALLY IN CHARACTER?!
YOU'RE MUCH CUTER THAN SHE IS, IYO!
SQUEE
SQUEE
AH HA HA! GET HER! GET HER, IYO-CHAN!!
GRRRR, IMPERTINENT LITTLE...
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG?
MANLY CREPES
IN THAT CASE...
WALLA-WALLA
どや どや
OH, IT'S IYO!
THIS CALLS FOR OUR ULTIMATE WEAPON! BRING OUT CLASS A'S ULTIMATE WEAPON!
GET READY TO RUMBLE!
2-A MANLY CREPES
SENSEI! YOSHIDA-SENSEI! YOU'RE UP!
CREPES
MOUSE ANCAKES

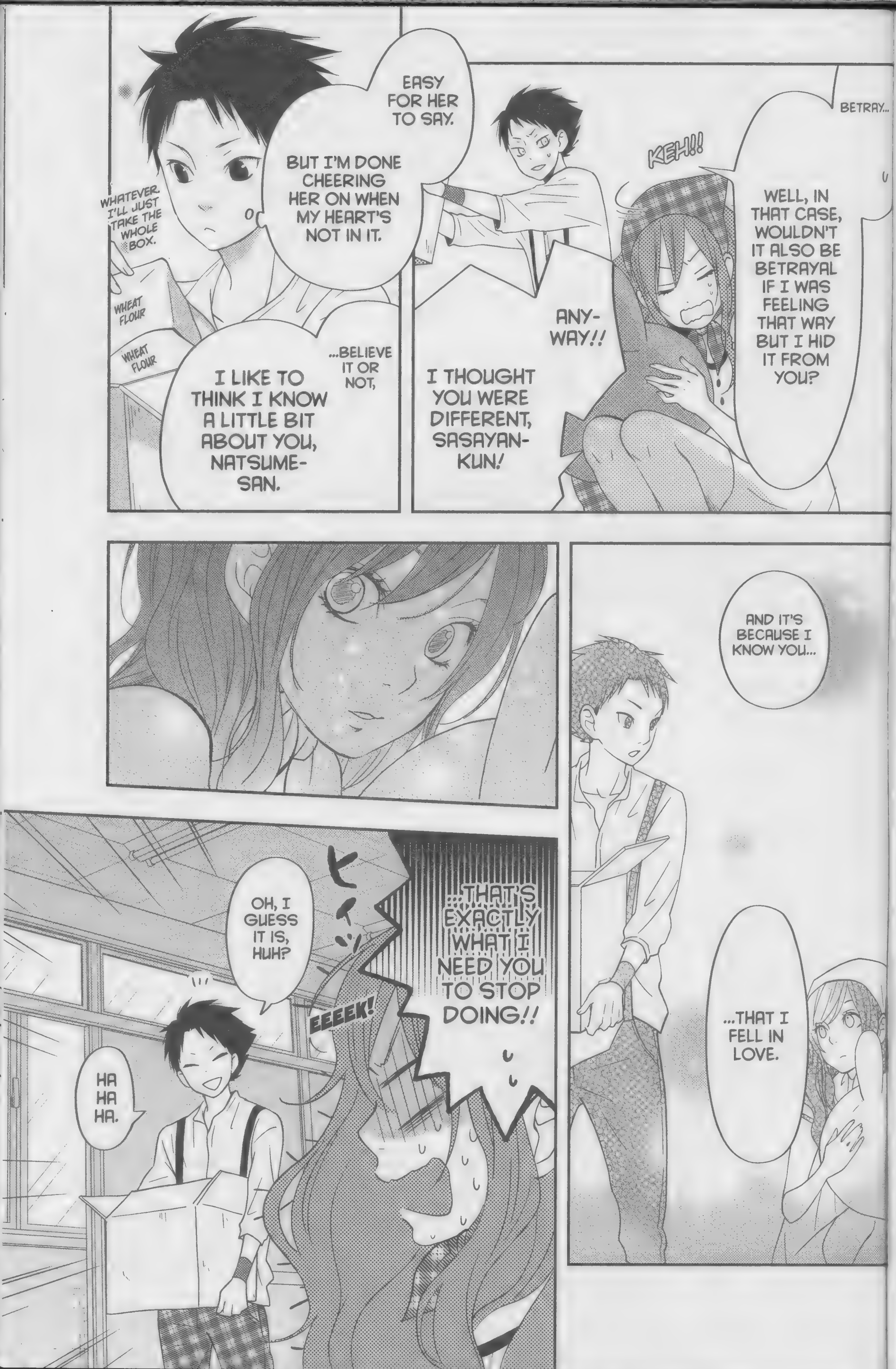

OH, YOU CALLED, BOSS HACHIGASAKI?
I'M BUSY MAKING CREPES.
I THINK THIS MIGHT BE MY PURPOSE IN LIFE.
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR CLASS, RIGHT?!
BAM
THEN WILL YOU DISPOSE OF THOSE LITTLE BRATS FOR ME?!
OH. YOU WANT ME TO GET RID OF THEM?!
ZSH
Y-YOSHIDA-SEMPAI?!
WINCE
ビクゥッ
1-C ANCIENT JAPANESE TALES
HARU-SEMPAI! ♡
MOUSE PANCAKES
H-HEEEY!
DASH だ
NO FIGHTING!
YOSHIDA-KUN, DIDN'T I TELL YOU THAT IF WE CAUSE PROBLEMS, OUR BOOTH WILL BE SHUT DOWN?!
...BOSS TOLD ME TO.
YOSHIDA-KUN! YOU LEARNED HOW TO PASS THE BLAME TO OTHERS!
N-NOW'S OUR CHANCE. R-RUN AWAY!
HARU-SEMPAI, IYO HOPES YOU'LL COME SEE HER PLAY!
HEAVE-HO HEAVE-HO.

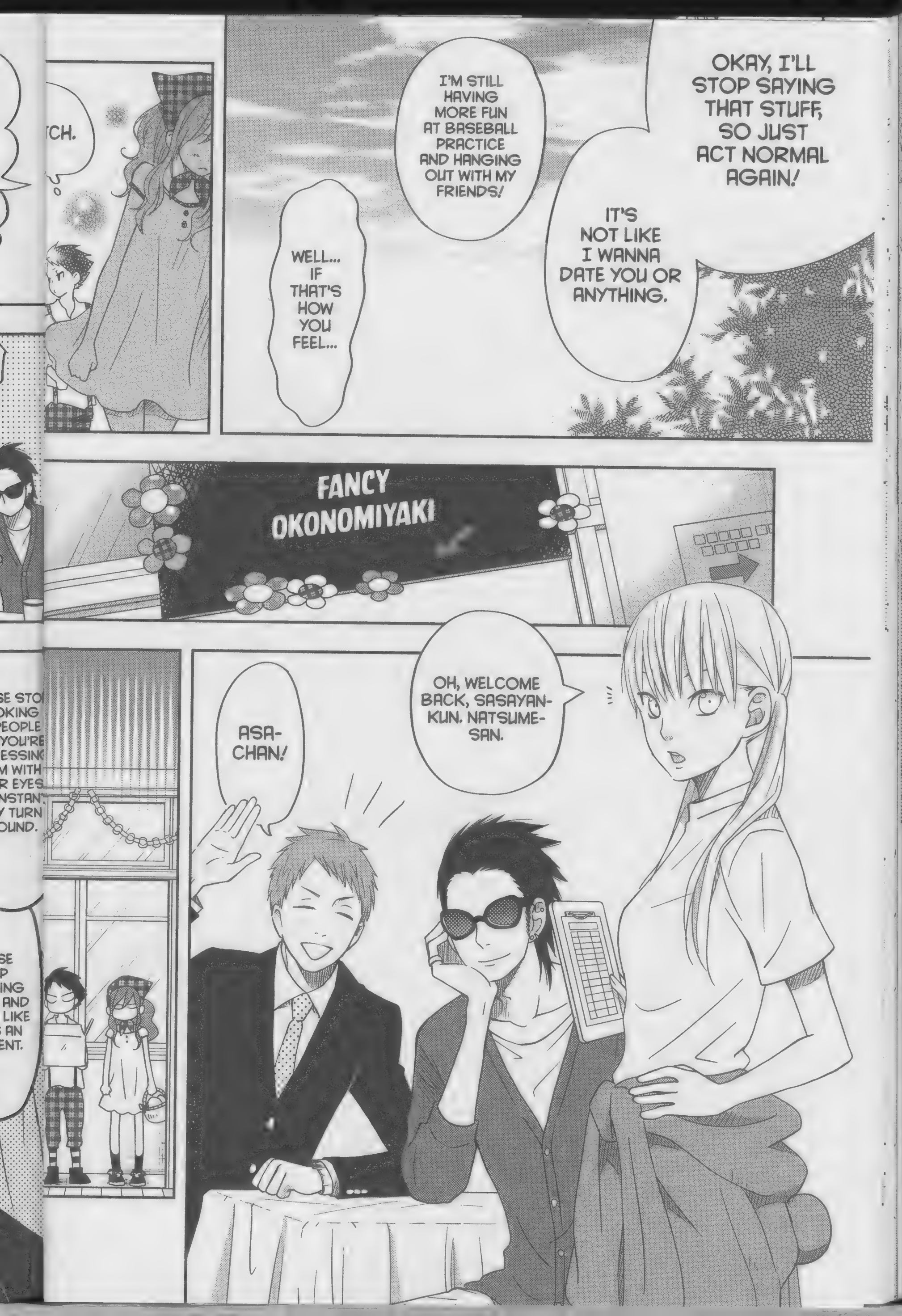

OH...
TAKAYA-KUN.
YO, TAKAYA!
UM, OSHIMA-SAN... WE WANT TO GO TO MY SISTER'S CLASS, BUT...
CLASS B? OKAY, YOU CAN COME WITH ME.
WANT SOME OF MY CREPES?!
NO.
YOSHIDA-KUN WON'T GET A BREAK FOR A WHILE.
ESCAPE COMMON SENSE
2-B
FANCY OKONOMIYAKI

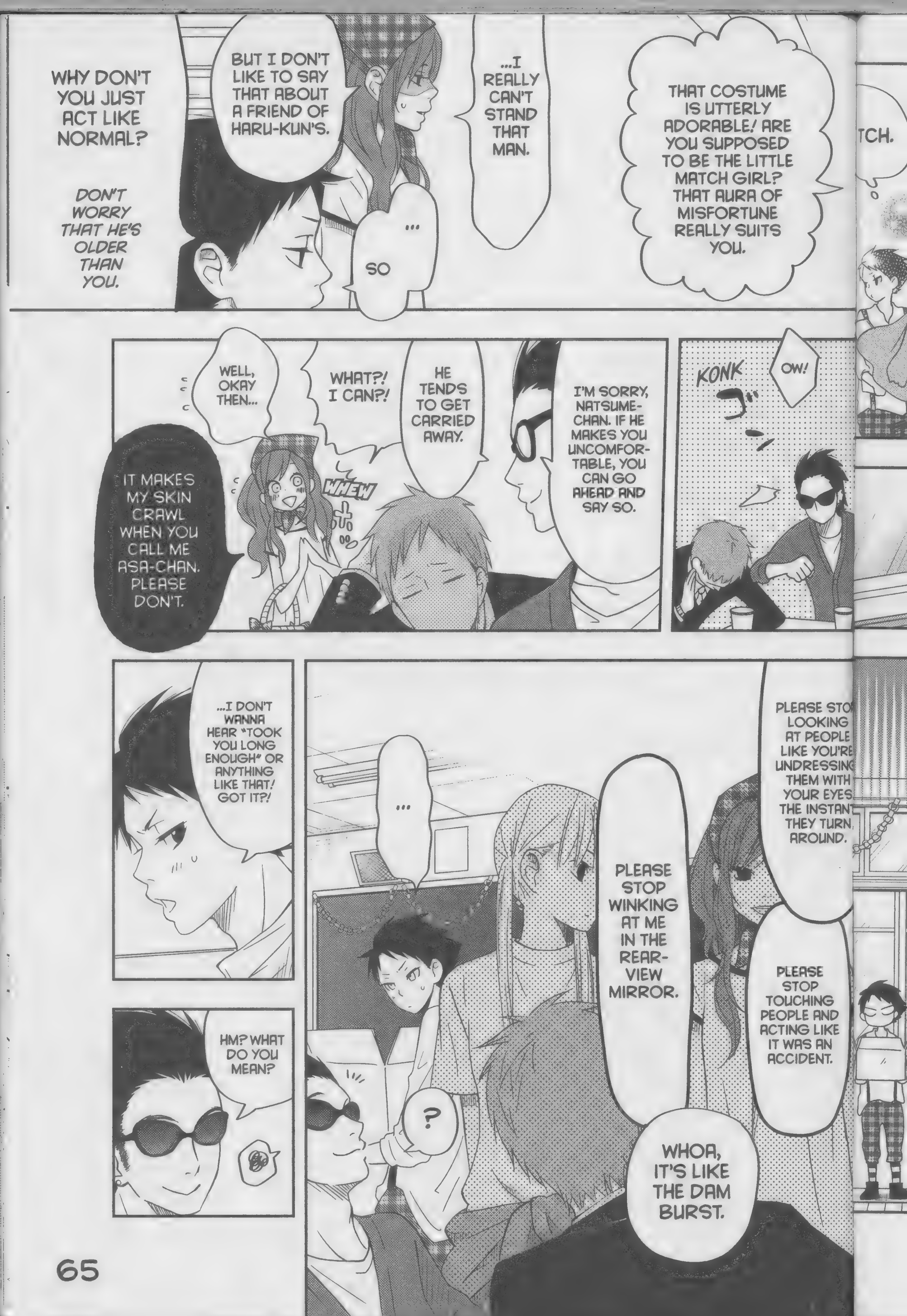

TWO MORE OKONOMIYAKIS!
A CAT AND A BEAR!!
HEY, SASAYAN! WE'RE HERE!
OH! LONG TIME NO SEE!
SORRY, BUT WE'RE FULL! COULD YOU COME BACK LATER?
MURMUR ざわ
MURMUR ざわ
WHERE DO YOU KNOW THEM FROM?
THEY WERE THE RUGBY TEAM FROM ANOTHER JUNIOR HIGH!
HEY, WE GOT TROUBLE! FLOUR CRISIS!
SIZZLE じゅ
WE'RE ALMOST OUT!
HE KNOWS EVERYONE.
THERE'S SOME IN THE BACK. I'LL GO GET IT.
ALL YOU NEED IS A LITTLE WHEAT FLOUR, WATER, AND CABBAGE TO MAKE 300 YEN*.
♪
ザワ MURMUR
ザワ MURMUR
I JUST CAN'T STOP SMILING ABOUT IT!
!

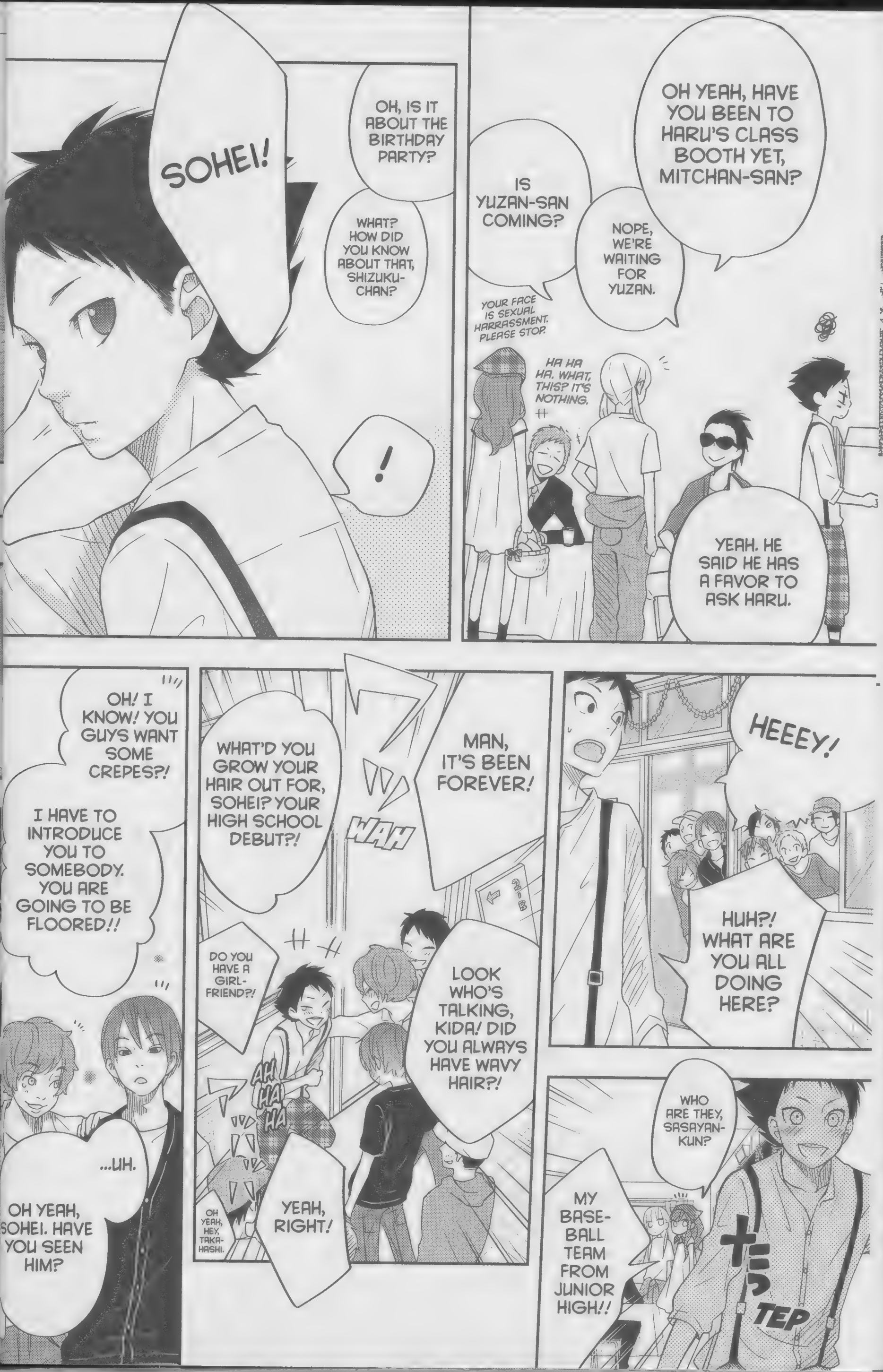
*ABOUT $3

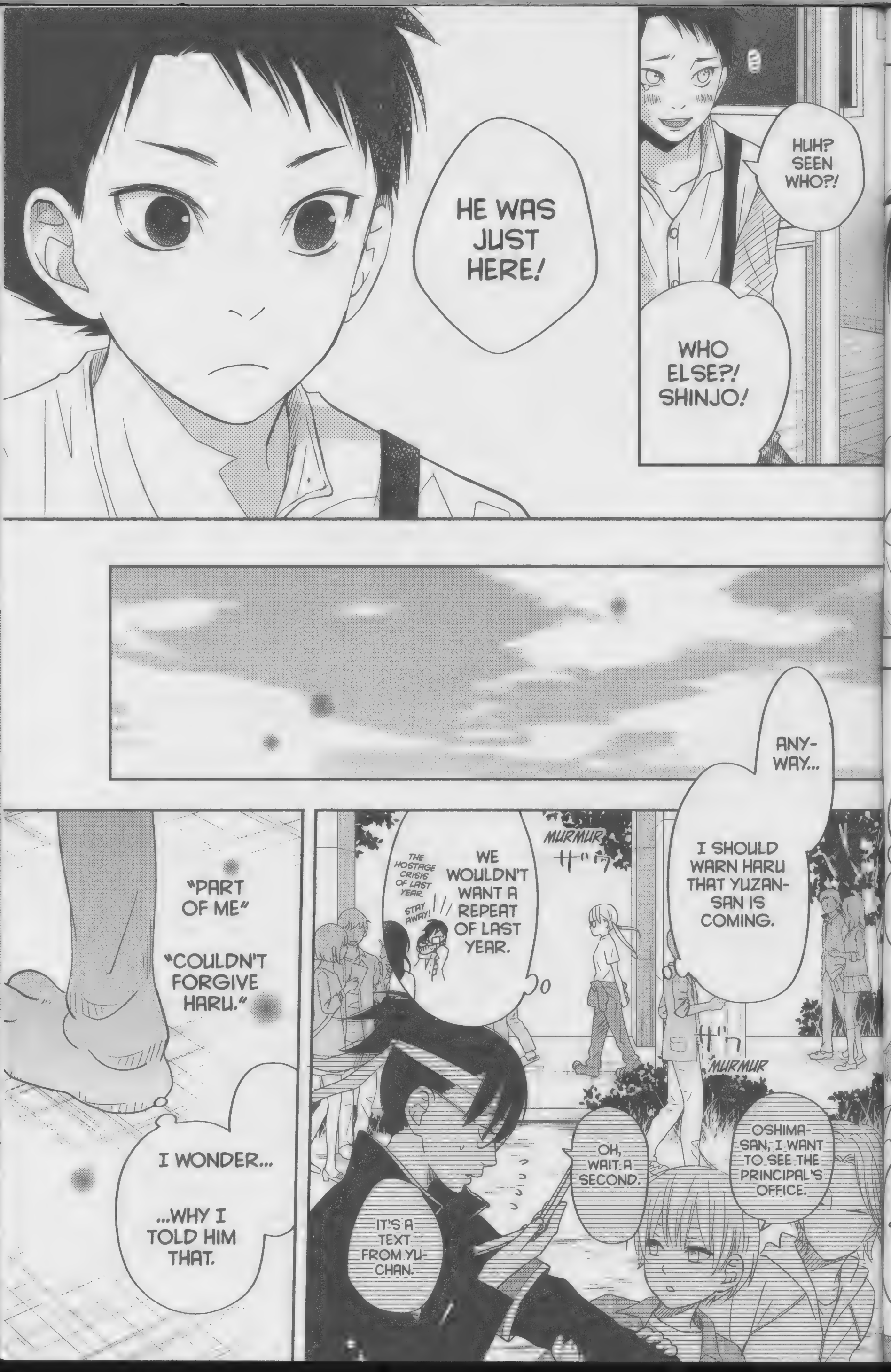

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING, NATSUME-SAN?
THAT'S MIZUTANI-SAN'S HEAD...
BACK AWAY.
S-SASAYAN-KUN?! IT-IT'S NOT—I WAS JUST—THE NOSTALGIA...!
DON'T LEAVE ANY VALUABLES.
I-I JUST CAME BACK HERE TO GET SOME FLOUR!
UH-HUH.
I CAME TO GET FLOUR, TOO.
IS THIS IT?
!!
...
...DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE IT SO OBVIOUS THAT YOU'RE AVOIDING ME?
I TOLD YOU, I DON'T MIND BEING FRIENDS.
...DOES THIS MEAN I'M KIND OF ON HER RADAR?
OR DOES SHE JUST REALLY HATE ME?
DON'T YOU?! I CAN'T TRUST THAT!
AND BESIDES, THE MINUTE YOU TOLD ME YOU LIKED ME, YOU COMMITTED AN ACT OF LIGHT BETRAYAL.

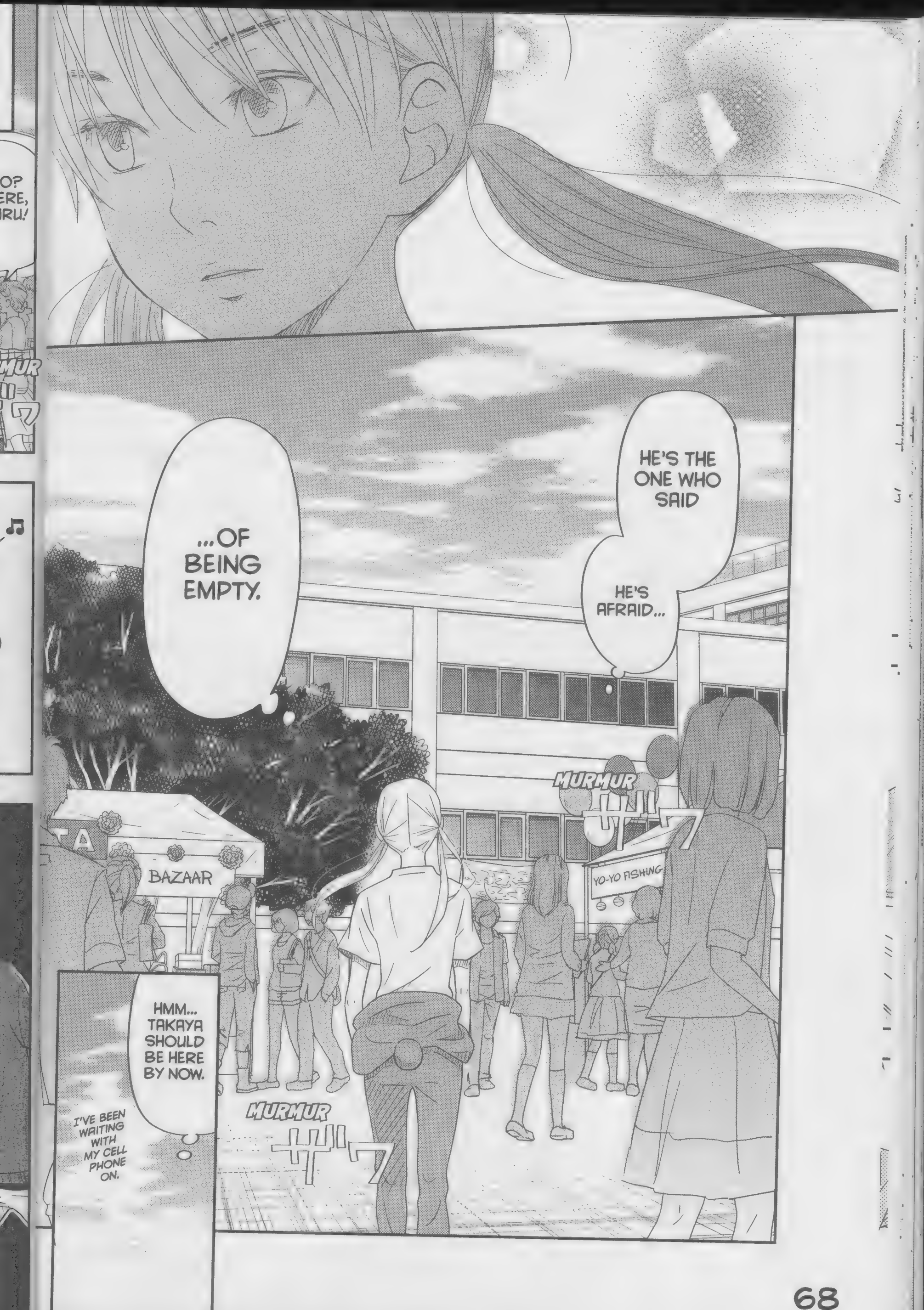

BETRAY...
KEH!!
WELL, IN THAT CASE, WOULDN'T IT ALSO BE BETRAYAL IF I WAS FEELING THAT WAY BUT I HID IT FROM YOU?
ANY-WAY!!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE DIFFERENT, SASAYAN-KUN!
EASY FOR HER TO SAY.
BUT I'M DONE CHEERING HER ON WHEN MY HEART'S NOT IN IT.
WHATEVER. I'LL JUST TAKE THE WHOLE BOX.
WHEAT FLOUR
WHEAT FLOUR
...BELIEVE IT OR NOT,
I LIKE TO THINK I KNOW A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOU, NATSUME-SAN.
AND IT'S BECAUSE I KNOW YOU...
...THAT I FELL IN LOVE.
ヒイッ
EEEEK!
...THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I NEED YOU TO STOP DOING!!
OH, I GUESS IT IS, HUH?
HA HA HA.

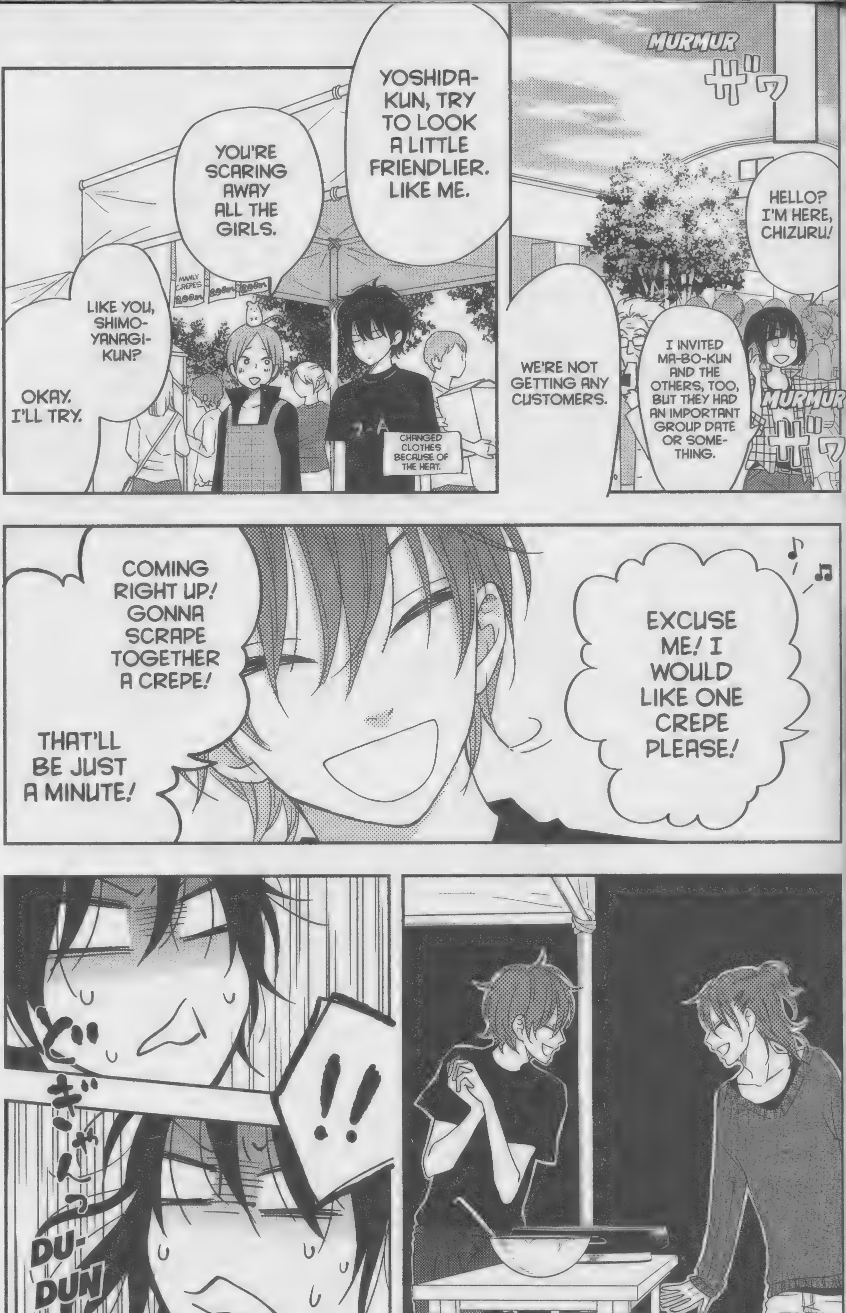

OKAY, I'LL STOP SAYING THAT STUFF, SO JUST ACT NORMAL AGAIN!
IT'S NOT LIKE I WANNA DATE YOU OR ANYTHING.
I'M STILL HAVING MORE FUN AT BASEBALL PRACTICE AND HANGING OUT WITH MY FRIENDS!
WELL... IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL...
TCH.
FANCY OKONOMIYAKI
OH, WELCOME BACK, SASAYAN-KUN. NATSUME-SAN.
ASA-CHAN!
SE STO OKING PEOPLE YOU'RE ESSING M WITH R EYES NSTAN Y TURN OUND.
SE P ING AND LIKE S AN ENT.

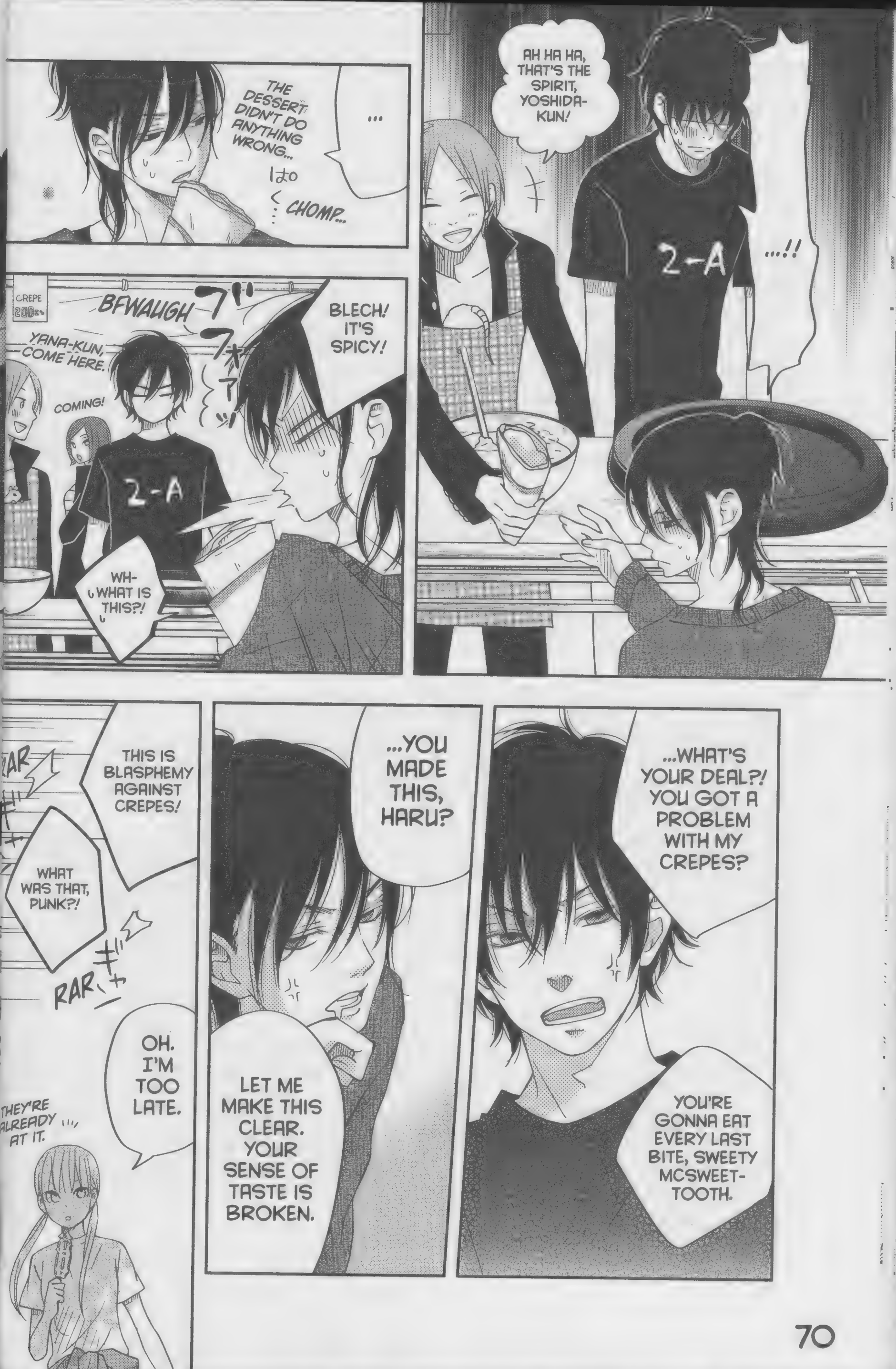

TCH.
THAT COSTUME IS UTTERLY ADORABLE! ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL? THAT AURA OF MISFORTUNE REALLY SUITS YOU.
...I REALLY CAN'T STAND THAT MAN.
BUT I DON'T LIKE TO SAY THAT ABOUT A FRIEND OF HARU-KUN'S.
...
SO
WHY DON'T YOU JUST ACT LIKE NORMAL?
DON'T WORRY THAT HE'S OLDER THAN YOU.
OW!
KONK
I'M SORRY, NATSUME-CHAN. IF HE MAKES YOU UNCOMFORTABLE, YOU CAN GO AHEAD AND SAY SO.
HE TENDS TO GET CARRIED AWAY.
WHAT?! I CAN?!
WHEW
WELL, OKAY THEN...
IT MAKES MY SKIN CRAWL WHEN YOU CALL ME ASA-CHAN. PLEASE DON'T.
PLEASE STO LOOKING AT PEOPLE LIKE YOU'RE UNDRESSING THEM WITH YOUR EYES THE INSTANT THEY TURN AROUND.
PLEASE STOP TOUCHING PEOPLE AND ACTING LIKE IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.
PLEASE STOP WINKING AT ME IN THE REAR-VIEW MIRROR.
...
?
WHOA, IT'S LIKE THE DAM BURST.
...I DON'T WANNA HEAR "TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH" OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT! GOT IT?!
HM? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

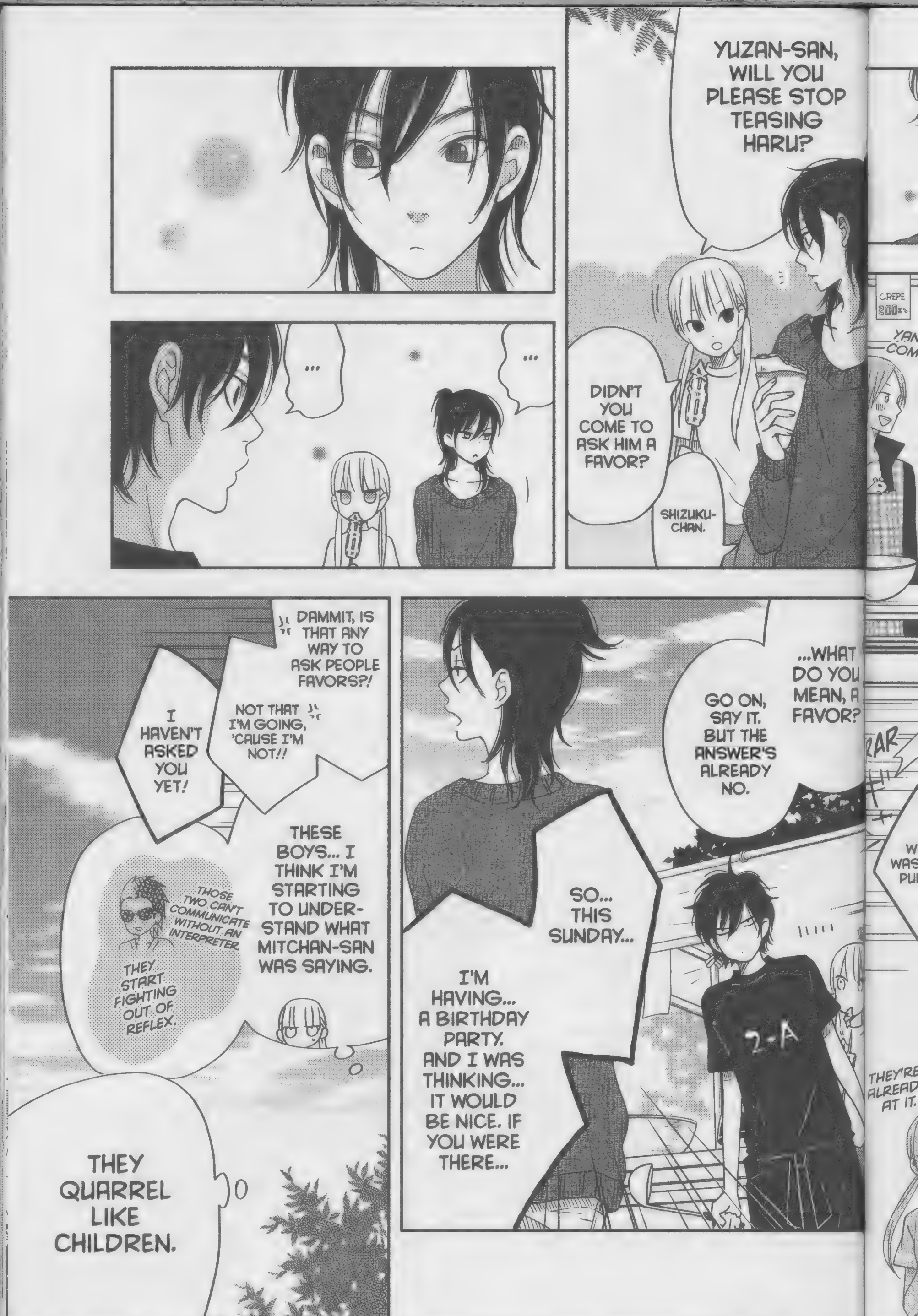

OH YEAH, HAVE YOU BEEN TO HARU'S CLASS BOOTH YET, MITCHAN-SAN?
NOPE, WE'RE WAITING FOR YUZAN.
IS YUZAN-SAN COMING?
YEAH. HE SAID HE HAS A FAVOR TO ASK HARU.
YOUR FACE IS SEXUAL HARRASSMENT. PLEASE STOP.
HA HA HA. WHAT, THIS? IT'S NOTHING.
OH, IS IT ABOUT THE BIRTHDAY PARTY?
WHAT? HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT, SHIZUKU-CHAN?
SOHEI!
!
HEEEY!
HUH?! WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING HERE?
WHO ARE THEY, SASAYAN-KUN?
MY BASEBALL TEAM FROM JUNIOR HIGH!!
TEP
MAN, IT'S BEEN FOREVER!
WHAT'D YOU GROW YOUR HAIR OUT FOR, SOHEI? YOUR HIGH SCHOOL DEBUT?!
WAH
LOOK WHO'S TALKING, KIDA! DID YOU ALWAYS HAVE WAVY HAIR?!
DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?!
AH HA HA
YEAH, RIGHT!
OH YEAH, HEY, TAKAHASHI.
OH! I KNOW! YOU GUYS WANT SOME CREPES?!
I HAVE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO SOMEBODY. YOU ARE GOING TO BE FLOORED!!
...UH.
OH YEAH, SOHEI. HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?

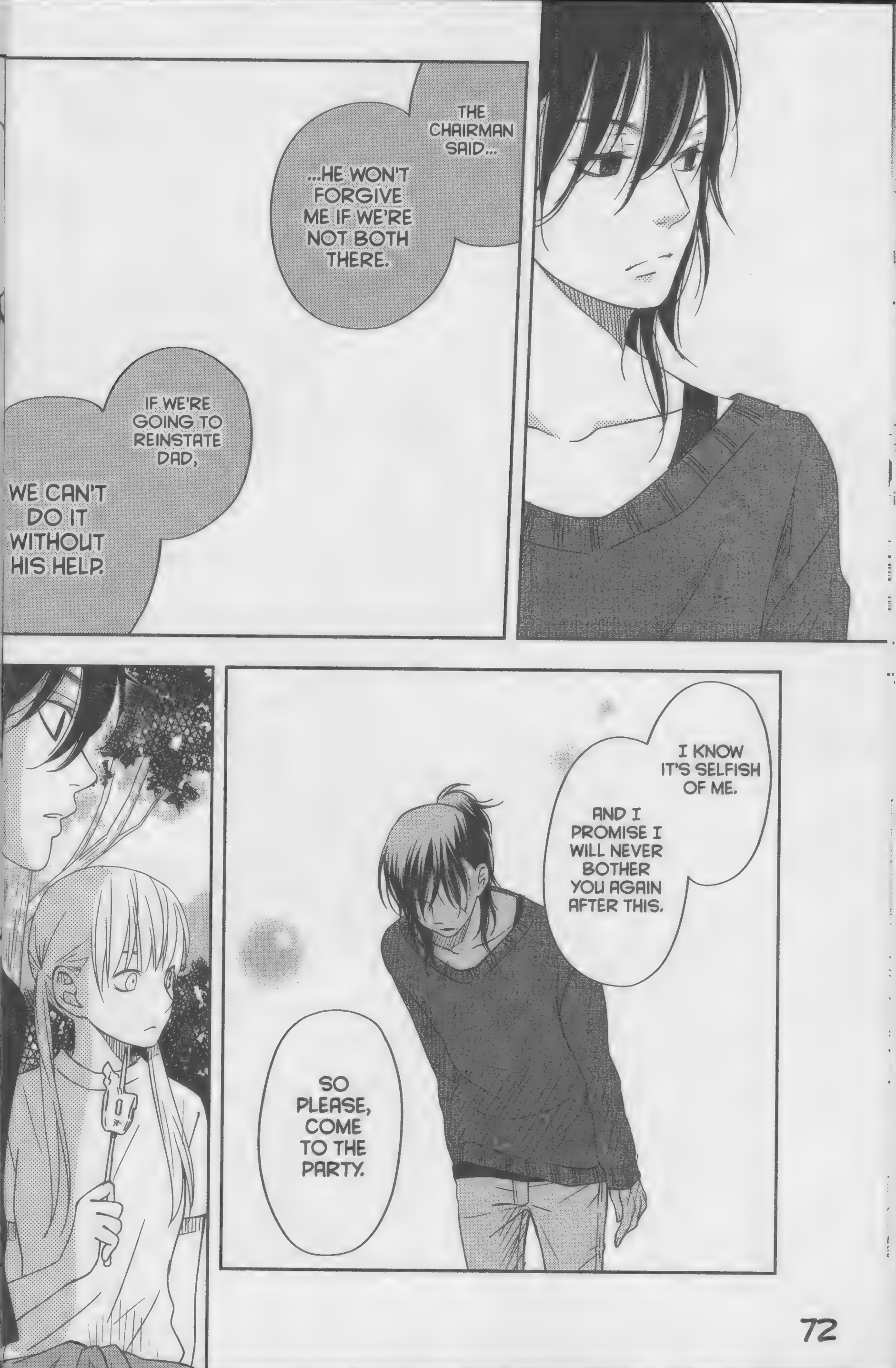

HUH? SEEN WHO?!
WHO ELSE?! SHINJO!
HE WAS JUST HERE!
ANY-WAY...
I SHOULD WARN HARU THAT YUZAN-SAN IS COMING.
MURMUR
ザワ
WE WOULDN'T WANT A REPEAT OF LAST YEAR.
THE HOSTAGE CRISIS OF LAST YEAR
STAY AWAY!
ザワ
MURMUR
OSHIMA-SAN, I WANT TO SEE THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE.
OH, WAIT A SECOND.
IT'S A TEXT FROM YU-CHAN.
"PART OF ME"
"COULDN'T FORGIVE HARU."
I WONDER...
...WHY I TOLD HIM THAT.

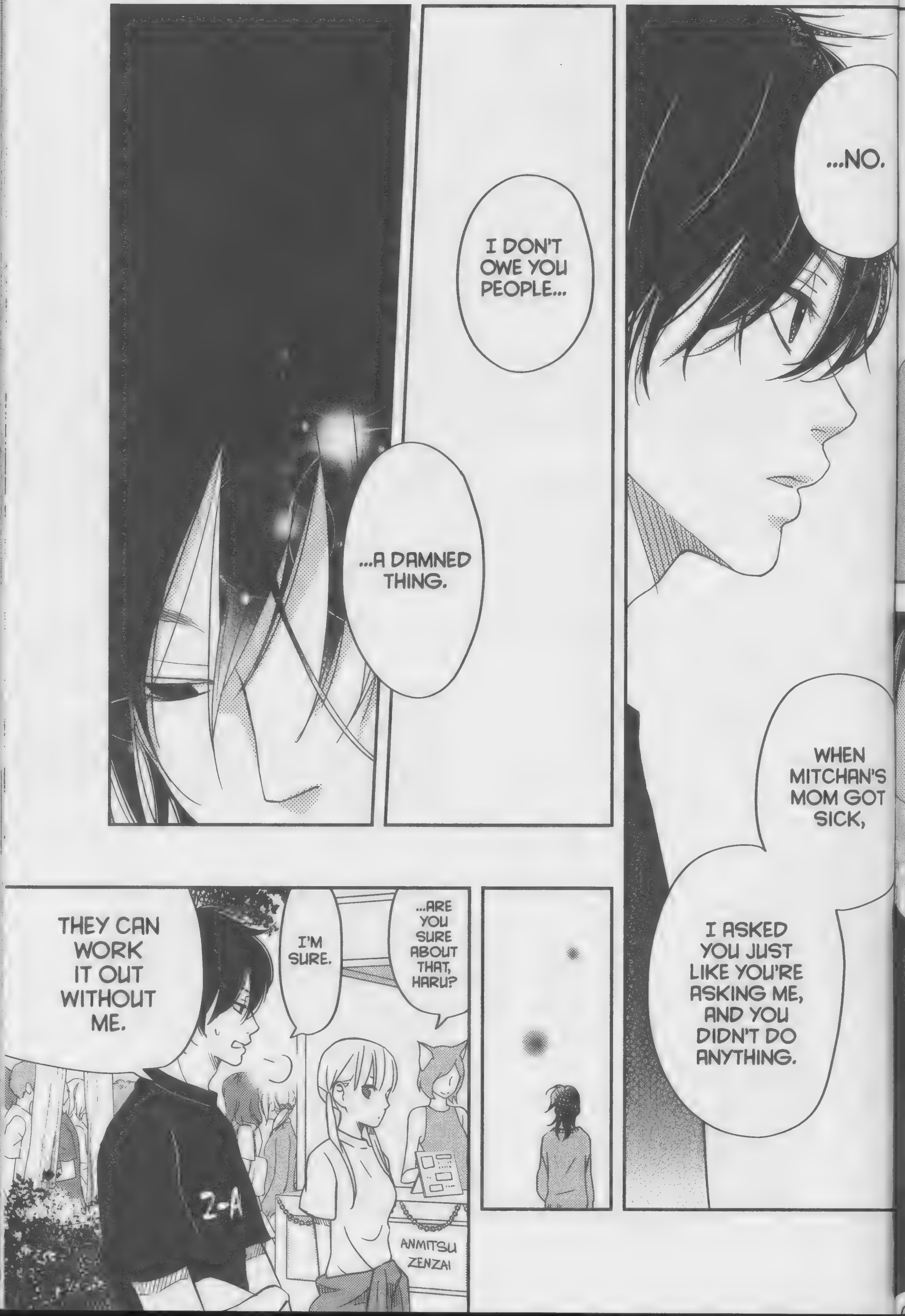

HE'S THE ONE WHO SAID
HE'S AFRAID...
...OF BEING EMPTY.
MURMUR
YO-YO FISHING
BAZAAR
TA
HMM... TAKAYA SHOULD BE HERE BY NOW.
I'VE BEEN WAITING WITH MY CELL PHONE ON.
MURMUR
O? ERE, IRU!
MUR

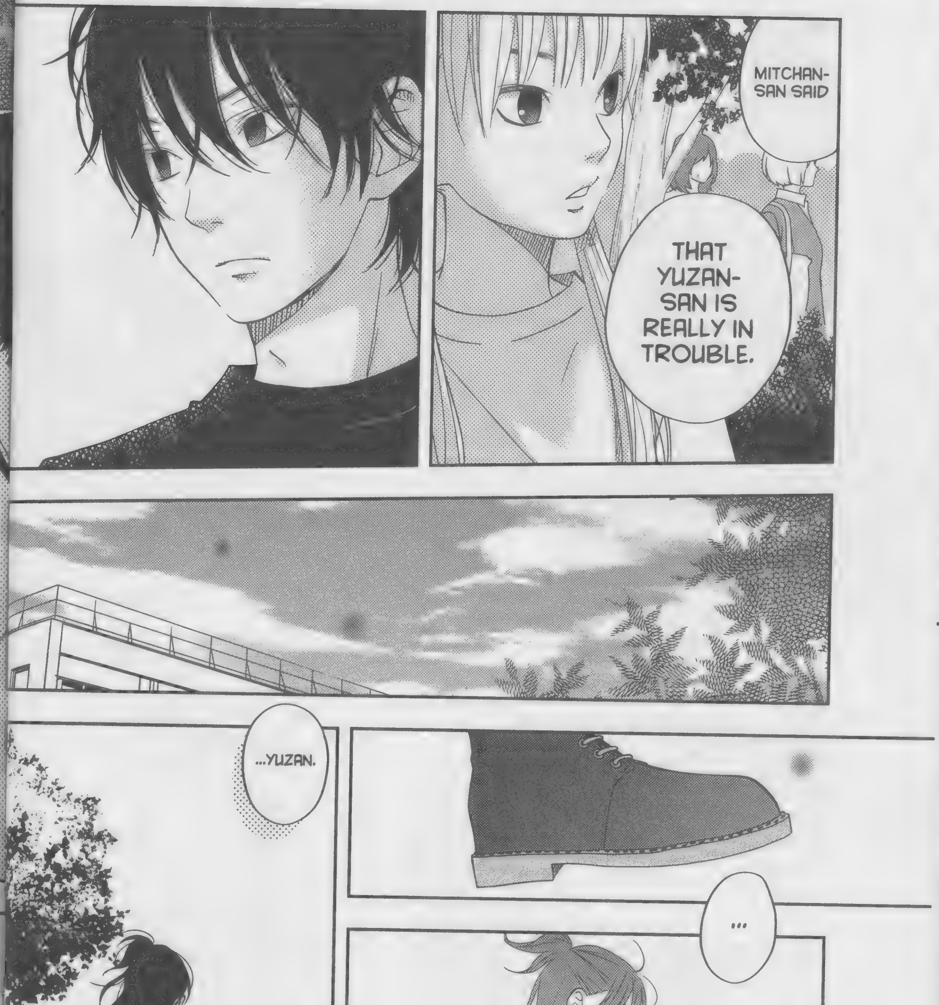

MURMUR
ザワ
HELLO? I'M HERE, CHIZURU!
I INVITED MA-BO-KUN AND THE OTHERS, TOO, BUT THEY HAD AN IMPORTANT GROUP DATE OR SOMETHING.
MURMUR
ザワ
WE'RE NOT GETTING ANY CUSTOMERS.
YOSHIDA-KUN, TRY TO LOOK A LITTLE FRIENDLIER. LIKE ME.
YOU'RE SCARING AWAY ALL THE GIRLS.
MANLY CREPES
200円
LIKE YOU, SHIMOYANAGI-KUN?
OKAY. I'LL TRY.
CHANGED CLOTHES BECAUSE OF THE HEAT.
♪ ♫
EXCUSE ME! I WOULD LIKE ONE CREPE PLEASE!
COMING RIGHT UP! GONNA SCRAPE TOGETHER A CREPE!
THAT'LL BE JUST A MINUTE!
!!
どぎゃんっ
DU-DUN

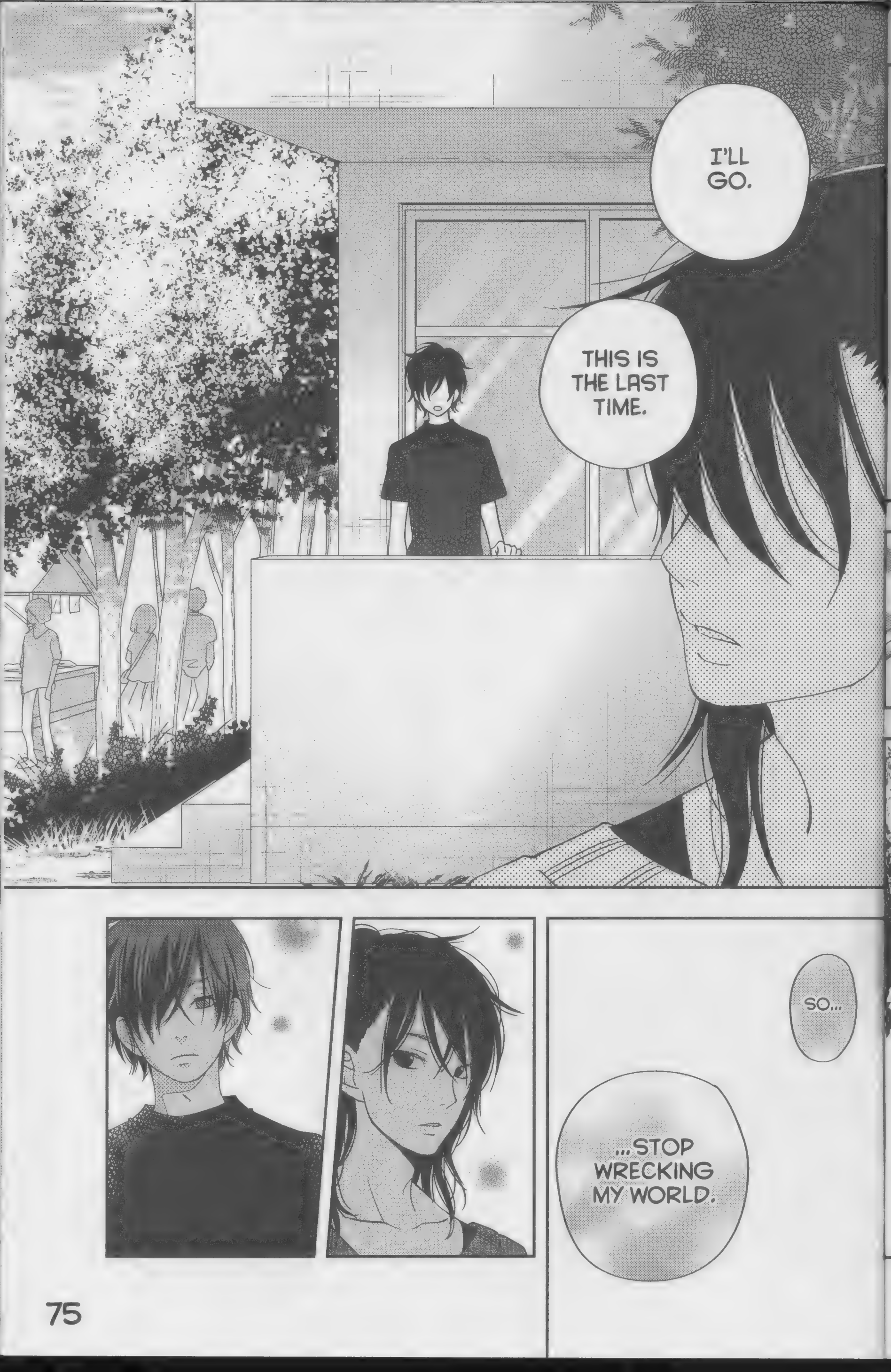

AH HA HA, THAT'S THE SPIRIT, YOSHIDA-KUN!
...!!
2-A
...
THE DESSERT DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG...
はむ
CHOMP...
BLECH! IT'S SPICY!
BFWAUGH ブフォアッ
CREPE 200円
YANA-KUN, COME HERE.
COMING!
2-A
WH- WHAT IS THIS?!
...WHAT'S YOUR DEAL?! YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH MY CREPES?
YOU'RE GONNA EAT EVERY LAST BITE, SWEETY MCSWEET-TOOTH.
...YOU MADE THIS, HARU?
LET ME MAKE THIS CLEAR. YOUR SENSE OF TASTE IS BROKEN.
THIS IS BLASPHEMY AGAINST CREPES!
RAR
WHAT WAS THAT, PUNK?!
RAR ギャ
OH. I'M TOO LATE.
THEY'RE ALREADY AT IT.

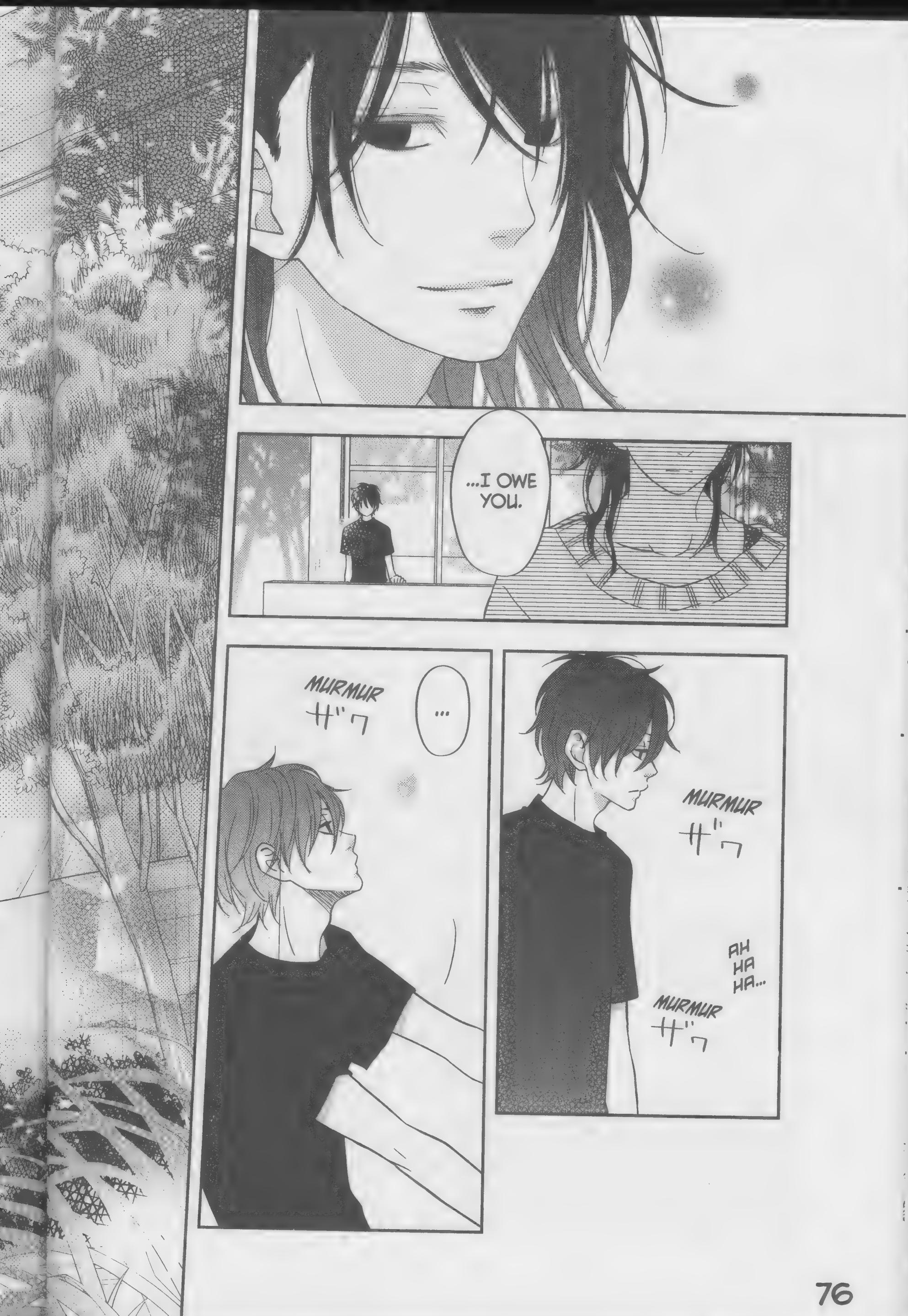

YUZAN-SAN, WILL YOU PLEASE STOP TEASING HARU?
DIDN'T YOU COME TO ASK HIM A FAVOR?
SHIZUKU-CHAN.
...
...
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN, A FAVOR?
GO ON, SAY IT. BUT THE ANSWER'S ALREADY NO.
SO... THIS SUNDAY...
I'M HAVING... A BIRTHDAY PARTY. AND I WAS THINKING... IT WOULD BE NICE. IF YOU WERE THERE...
DAMMIT, IS THAT ANY WAY TO ASK PEOPLE FAVORS?!
NOT THAT I'M GOING, 'CAUSE I'M NOT!!
I HAVEN'T ASKED YOU YET!
THESE BOYS... I THINK I'M STARTING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT MITCHAN-SAN WAS SAYING.
THOSE TWO CAN'T COMMUNICATE WITHOUT AN INTERPRETER.
THEY START FIGHTING OUT OF REFLEX.
THEY QUARREL LIKE CHILDREN.
2-A
CREPE 200
THEY'RE ALREAD AT IT.

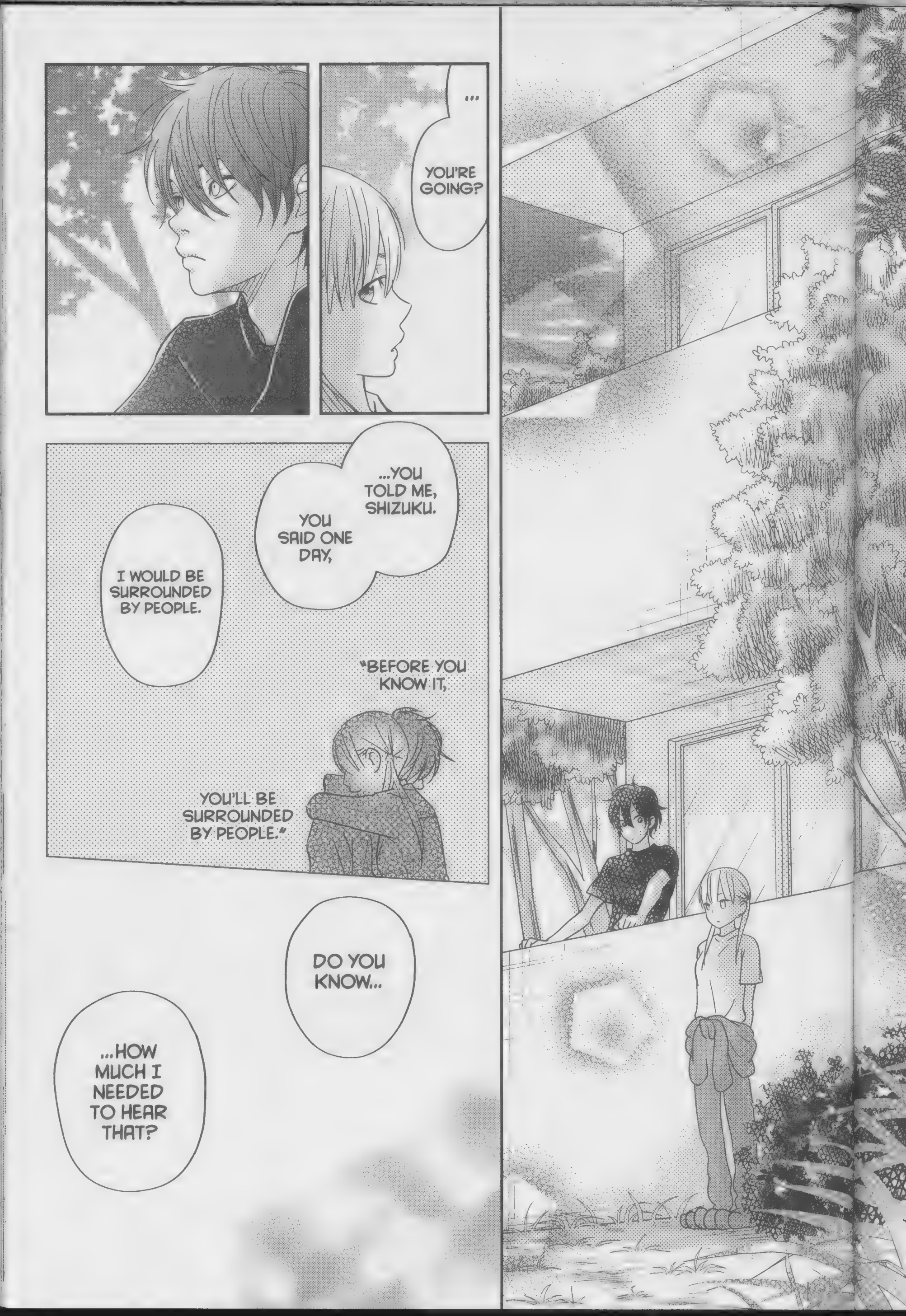

THE CHAIRMAN SAID...
...HE WON'T FORGIVE ME IF WE'RE NOT BOTH THERE.
IF WE'RE GOING TO REINSTATE DAD,
WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT HIS HELP.
I KNOW IT'S SELFISH OF ME.
AND I PROMISE I WILL NEVER BOTHER YOU AGAIN AFTER THIS.
SO PLEASE, COME TO THE PARTY.

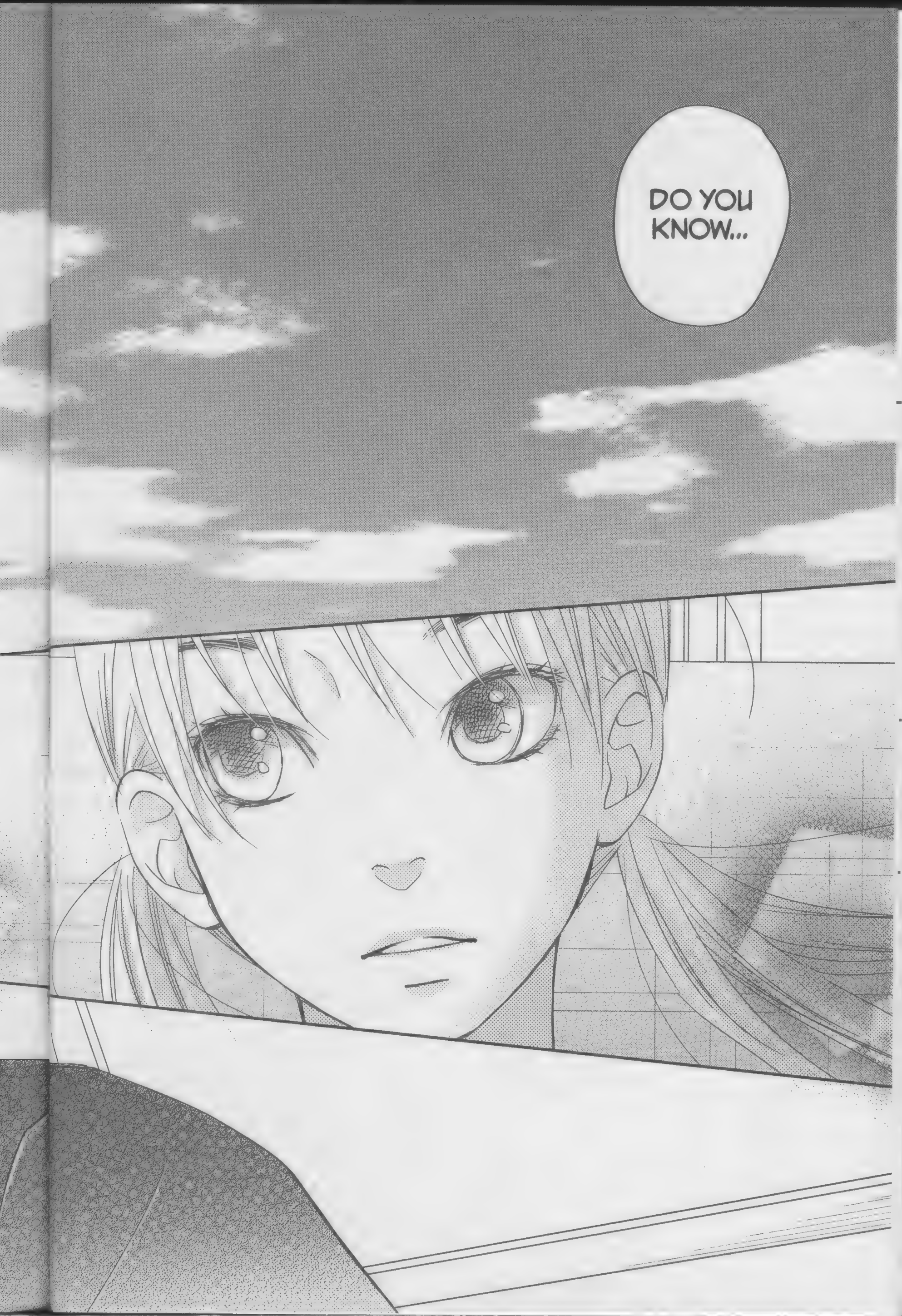

...NO.
I DON'T OWE YOU PEOPLE...
...A DAMNED THING.
WHEN MITCHAN'S MOM GOT SICK,
I ASKED YOU JUST LIKE YOU'RE ASKING ME, AND YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
...ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT, HARU?
I'M SURE.
THEY CAN WORK IT OUT WITHOUT ME.
ANMITSU ZENZAI
2-A

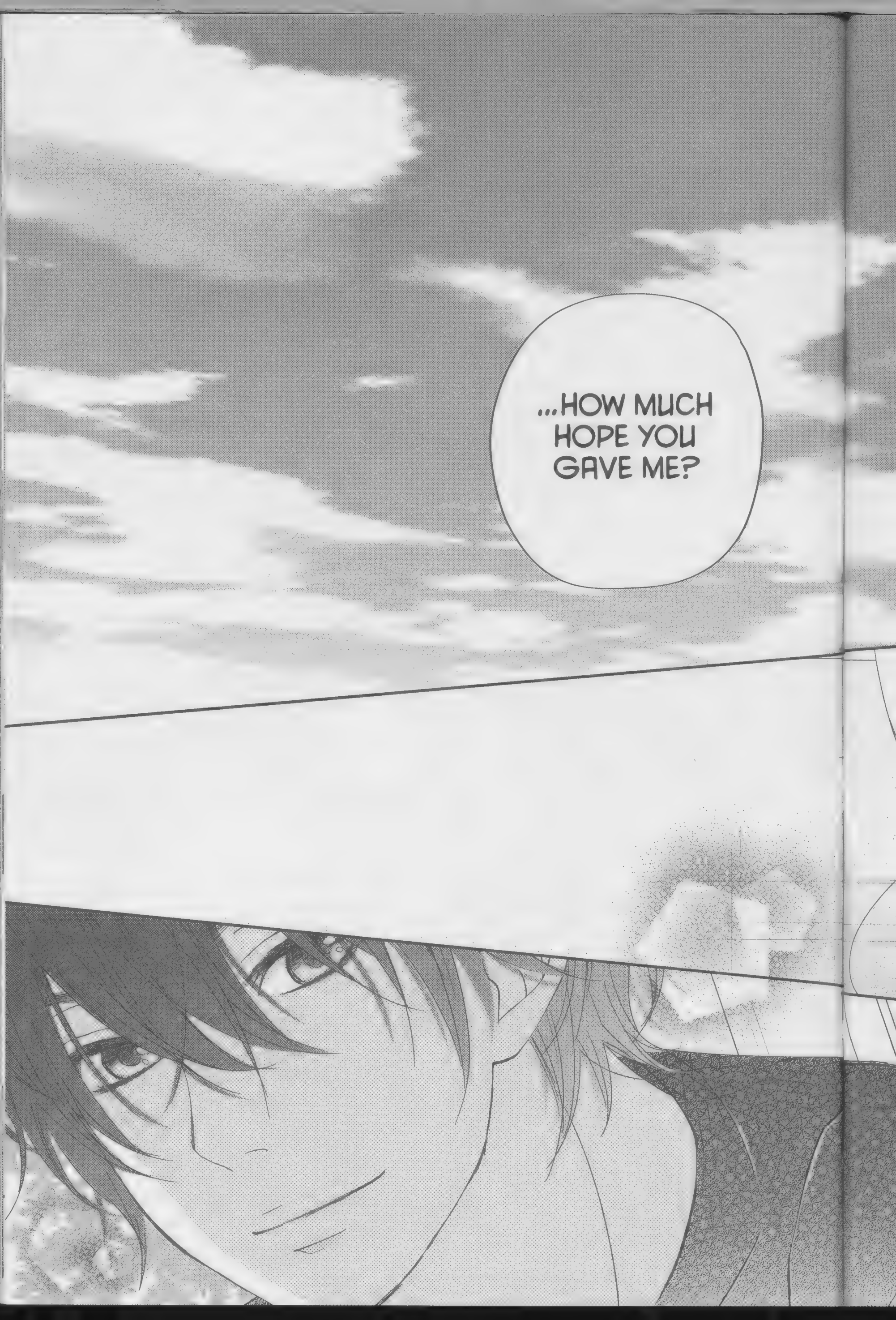

MITCHAN-SAN SAID
THAT YUZAN-SAN IS REALLY IN TROUBLE.
...
...YUZAN.

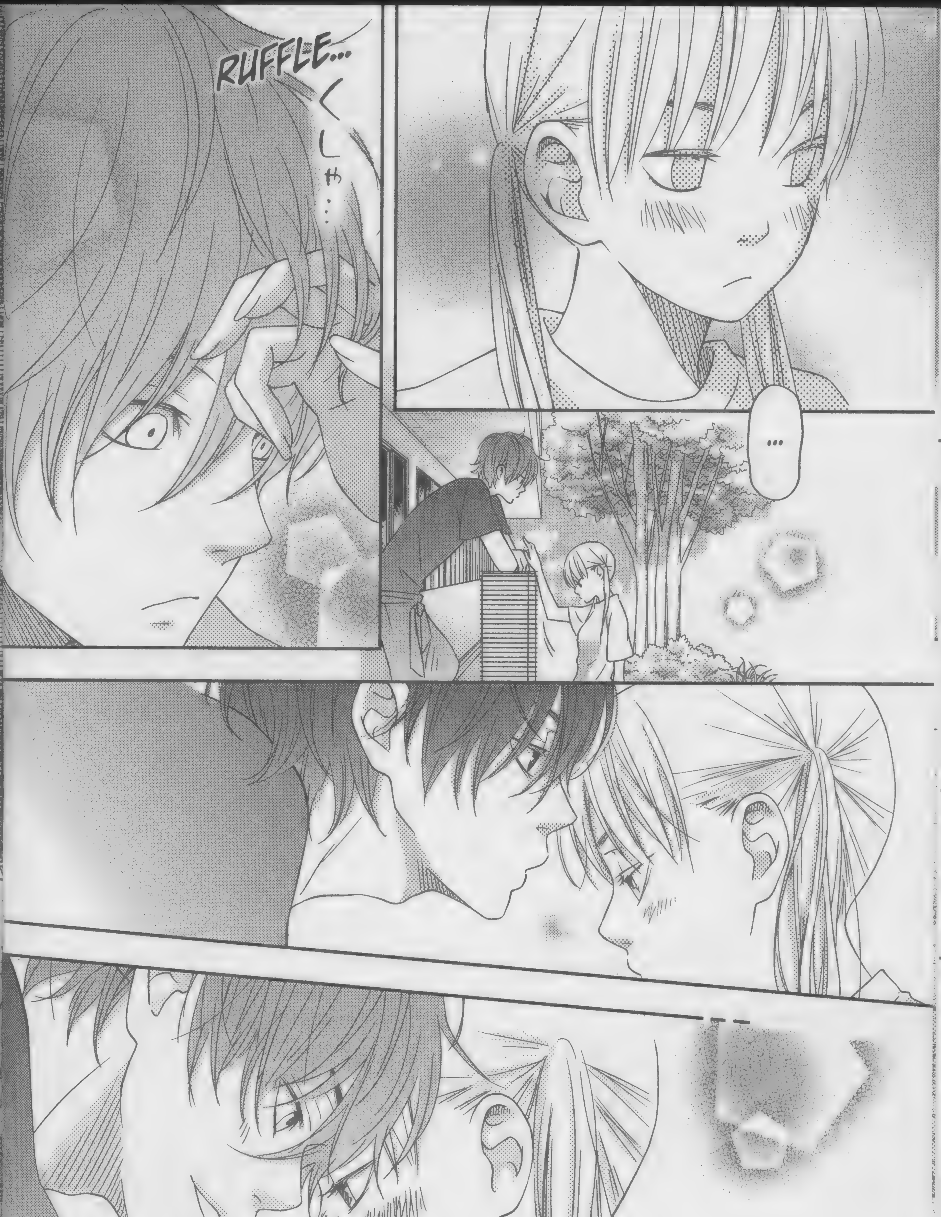

I'LL GO.
THIS IS THE LAST TIME.
SO...
...STOP WRECKING MY WORLD.

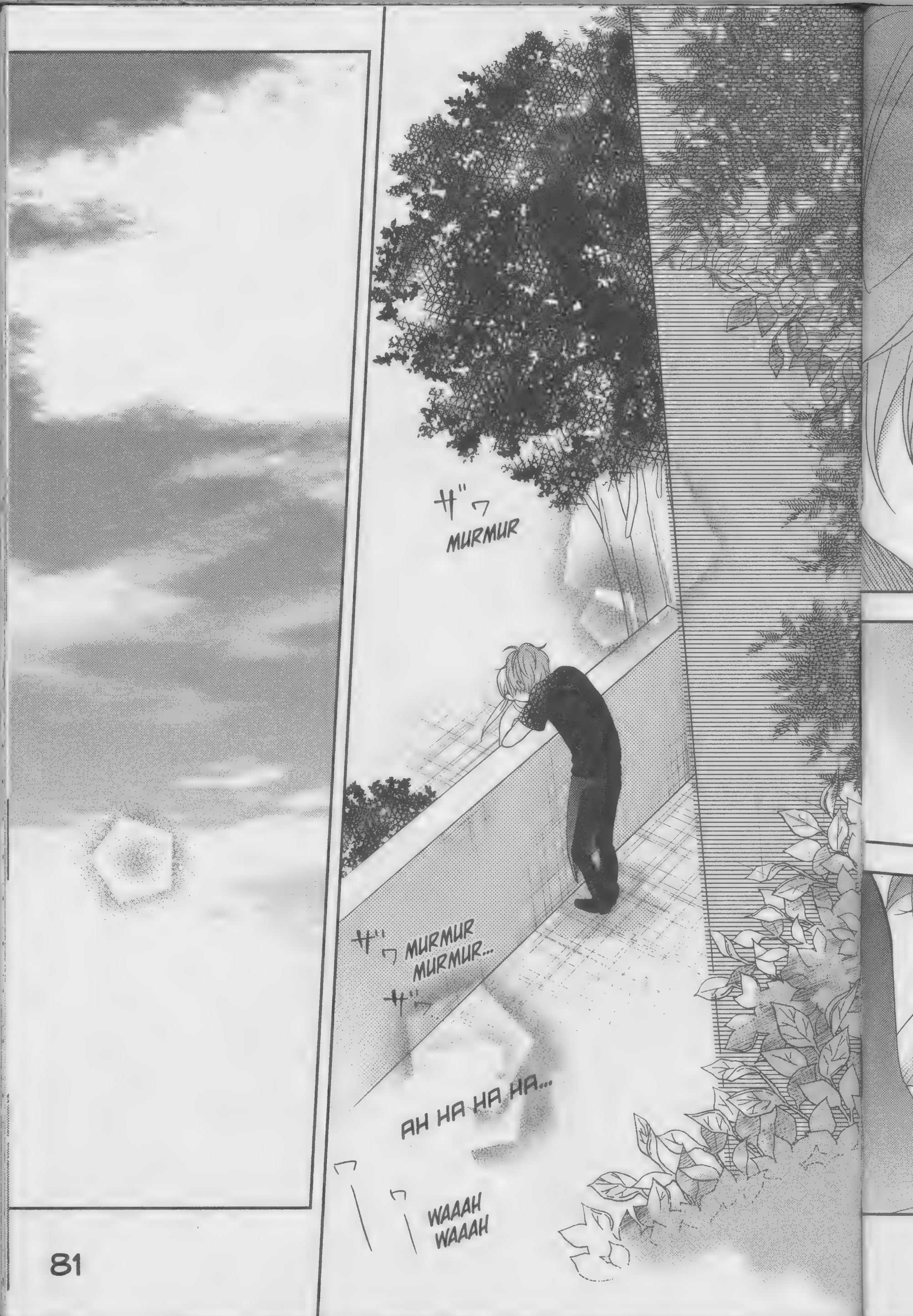

...I OWE YOU.
MURMUR ザワ
AH HA HA...
MURMUR ザワ
...
MURMUR ザワ


...
YOU'RE GOING?
...YOU TOLD ME, SHIZUKU.
YOU SAID ONE DAY,
I WOULD BE SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE.
"BEFORE YOU KNOW IT,
YOU'LL BE SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE."
DO YOU KNOW...
...HOW MUCH I NEEDED TO HEAR THAT?


DO YOU KNOW...


...HOW MUCH HOPE YOU GAVE ME?


…
RUFFLE…
くしゃ…


ザワ
MURMUR
ザワ MURMUR MURMUR...
ザワ
AH HA HA HA...
ワーワー
WAAAH WAAAH

AWA
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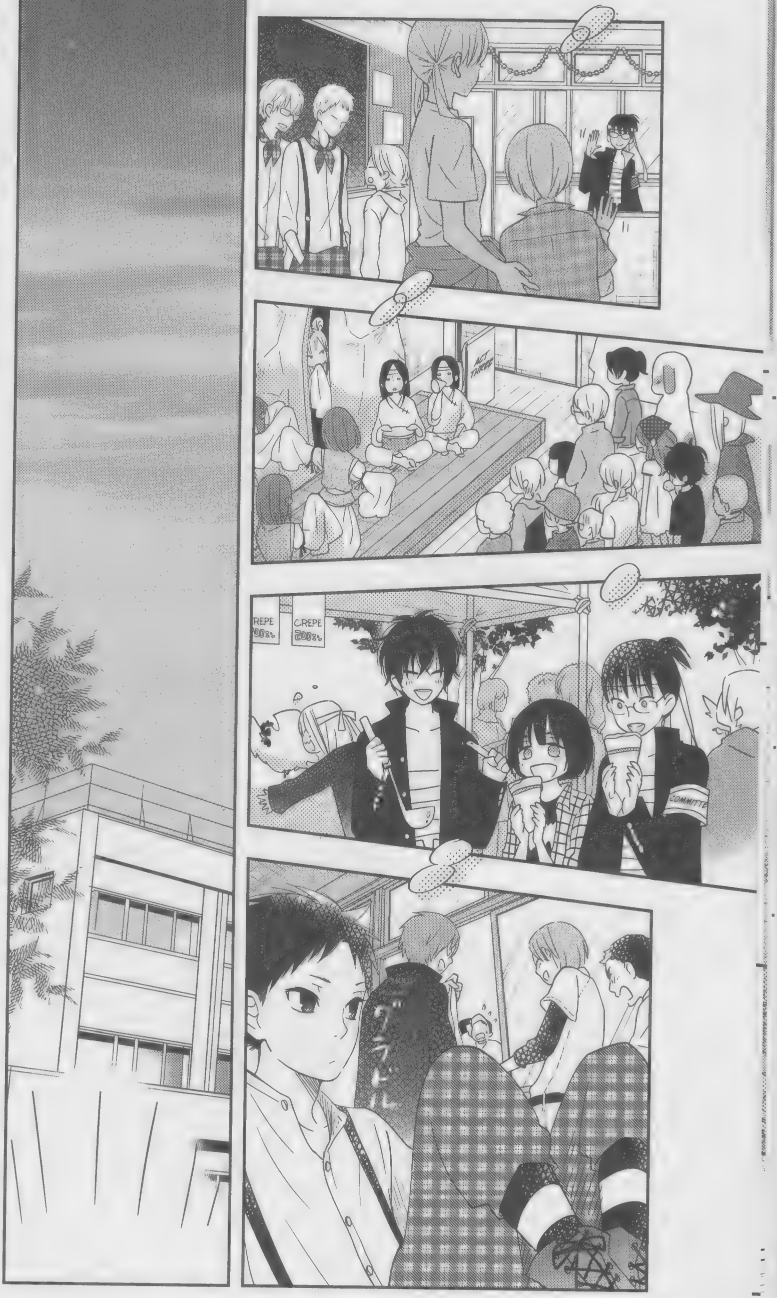
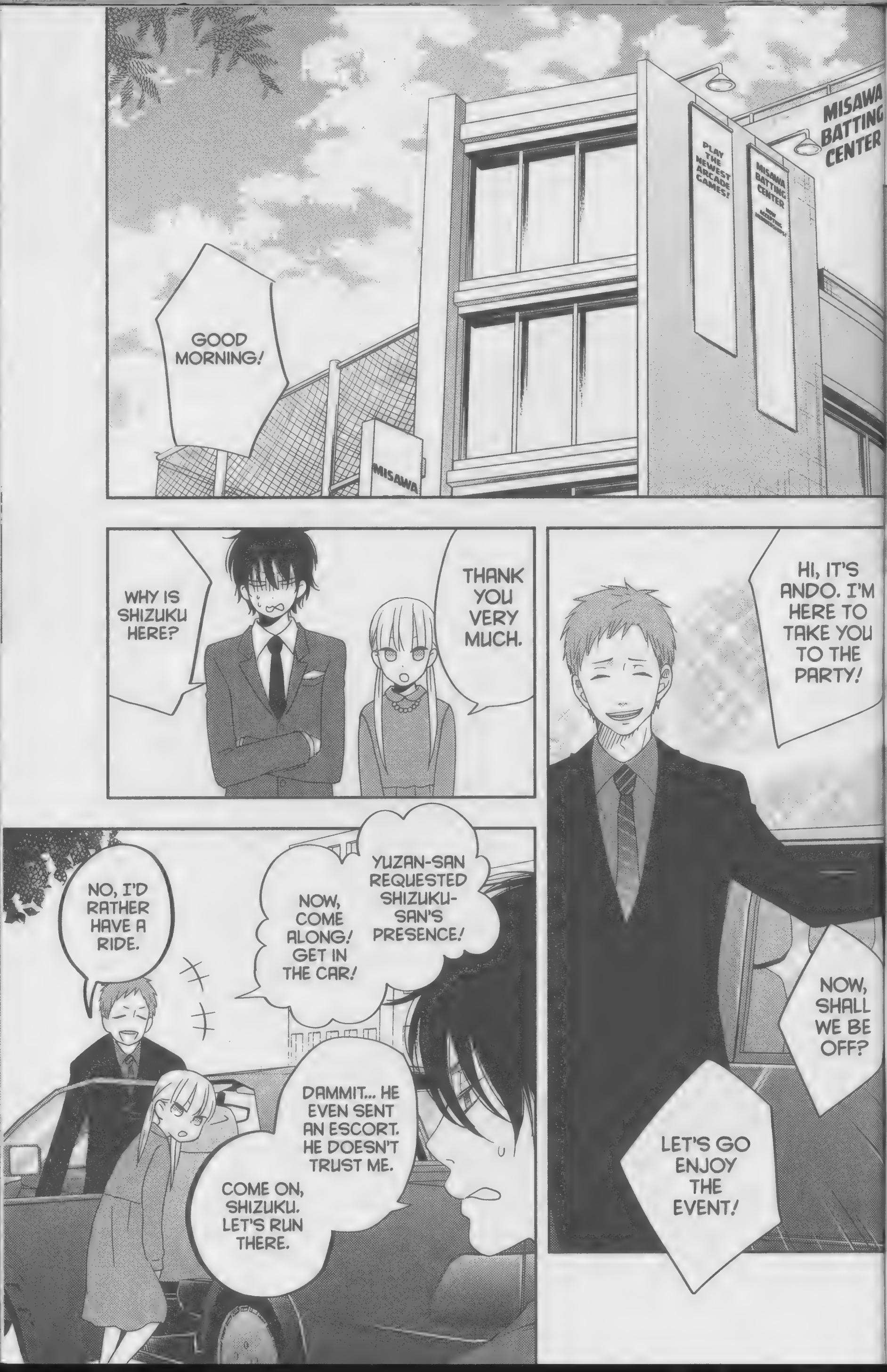
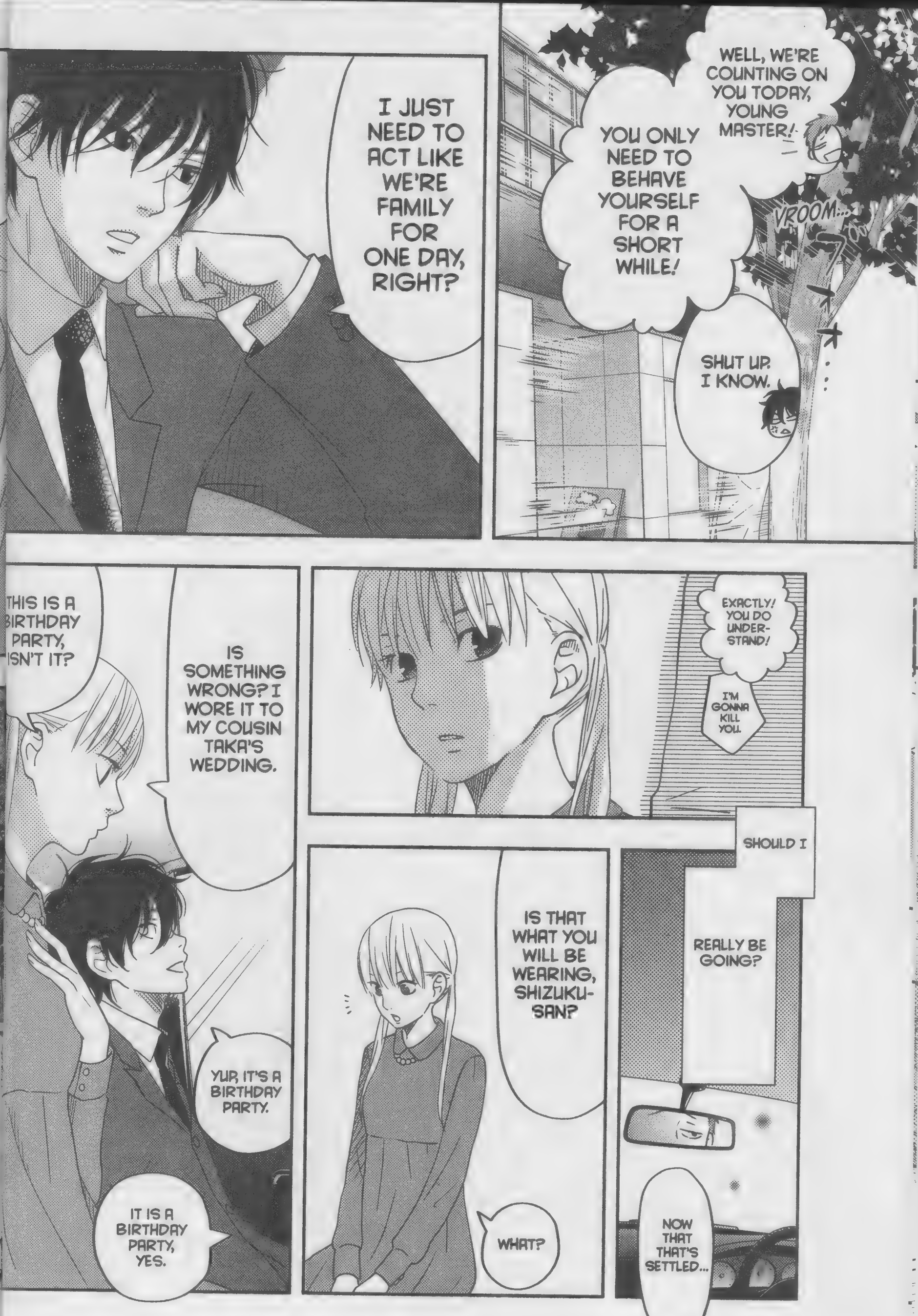
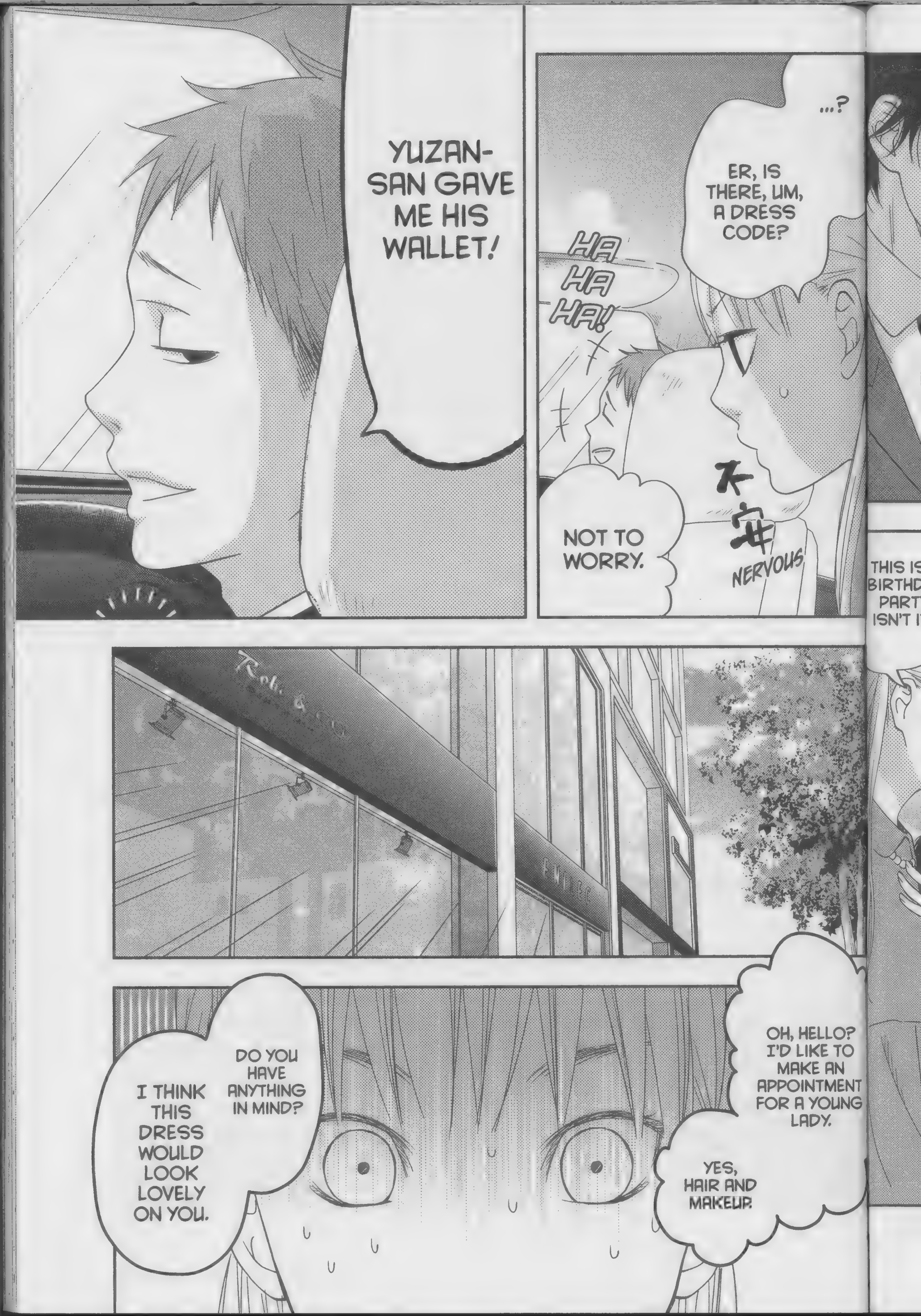
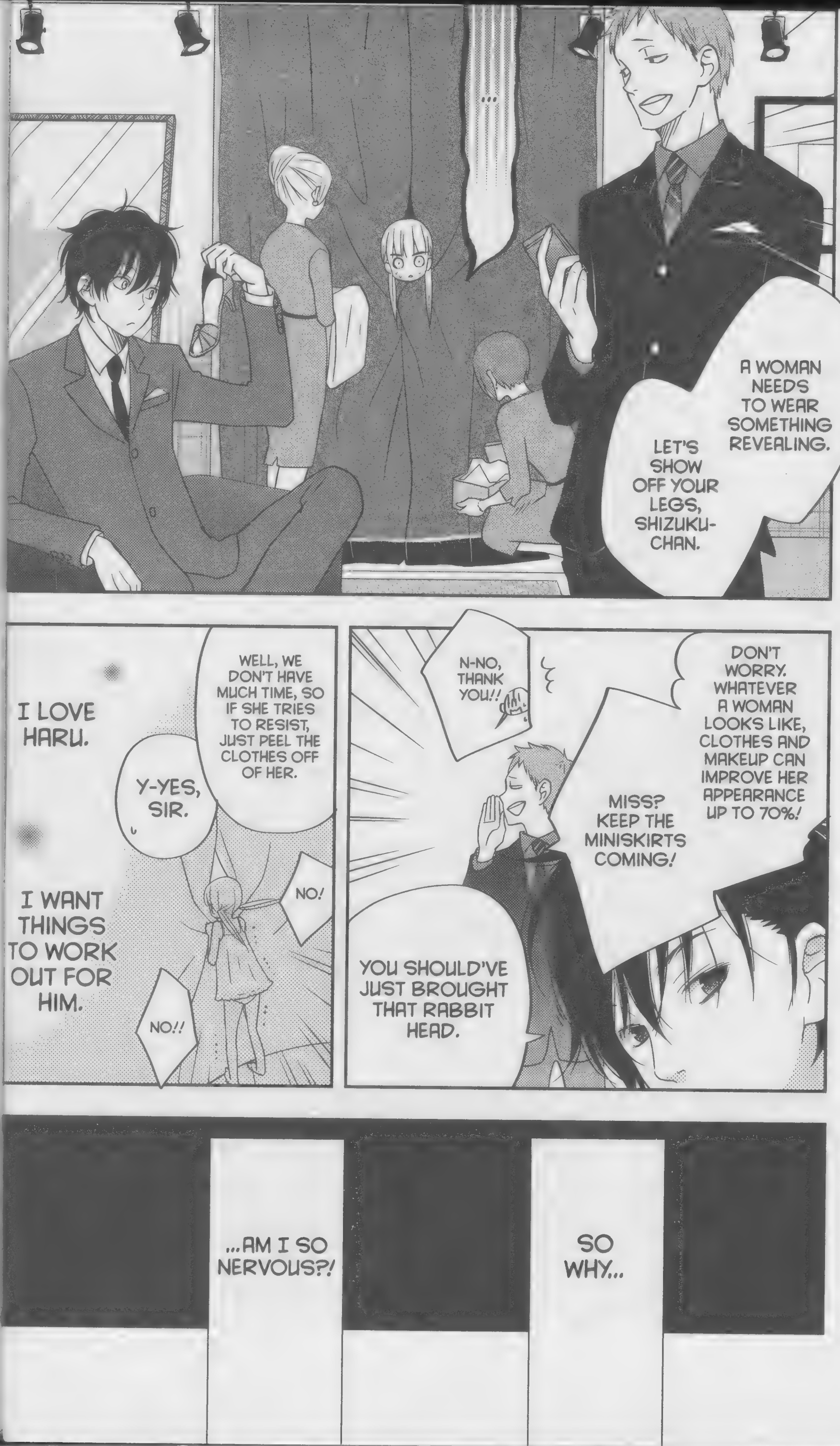

ACT THREE
CREPE
CREPE
COMMITTE
グラビドル

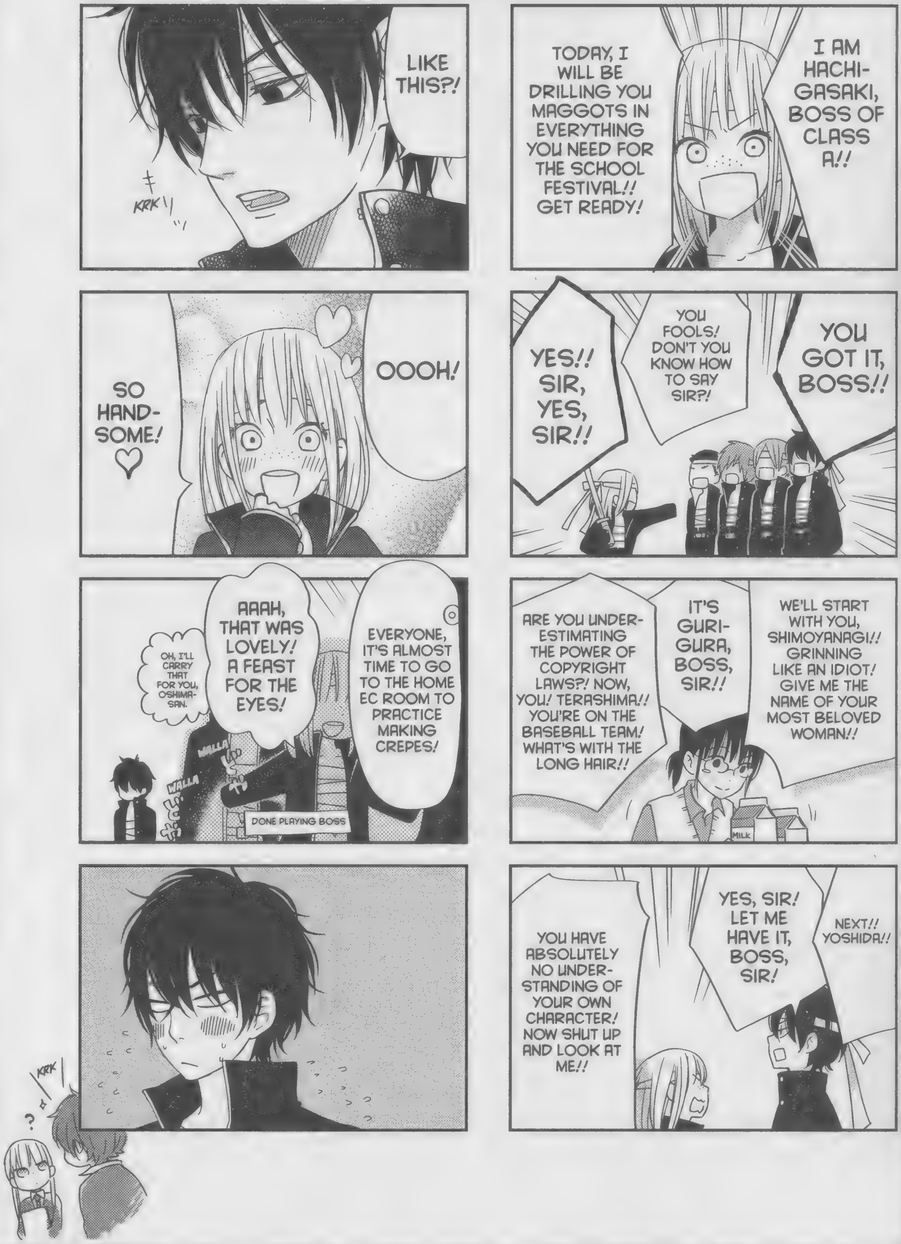

MISAWA BATTING CENTER
PLAY THE NEWEST ARCADE GAMES!
MISAWA BATTING CENTER NOW ACCEPTING MEMBERSHIPS!
MISAWA
GOOD MORNING!
HI, IT'S ANDO. I'M HERE TO TAKE YOU TO THE PARTY!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
WHY IS SHIZUKU HERE?
NOW, SHALL WE BE OFF?
LET'S GO ENJOY THE EVENT!
YUZAN-SAN REQUESTED SHIZUKU-SAN'S PRESENCE!
NOW, COME ALONG! GET IN THE CAR!
NO, I'D RATHER HAVE A RIDE.
DAMMIT... HE EVEN SENT AN ESCORT. HE DOESN'T TRUST ME.
COME ON, SHIZUKU. LET'S RUN THERE.

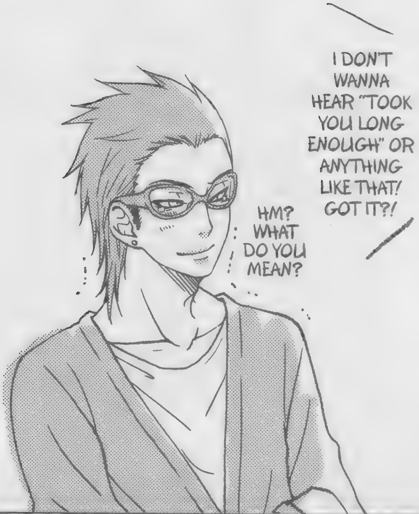

WELL, WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU TODAY, YOUNG MASTER!
YOU ONLY NEED TO BEHAVE YOURSELF FOR A SHORT WHILE!
VROOM...
SHUT UP. I KNOW.
I JUST NEED TO ACT LIKE WE'RE FAMILY FOR ONE DAY, RIGHT?
EXACTLY! YOU DO UNDERSTAND!
I'M GONNA KILL YOU.
SHOULD I
REALLY BE GOING?
NOW THAT THAT'S SETTLED...
IS THAT WHAT YOU WILL BE WEARING, SHIZUKU-SAN?
WHAT?
IS SOMETHING WRONG? I WORE IT TO MY COUSIN TAKA'S WEDDING.
THIS IS A BIRTHDAY PARTY, ISN'T IT?
YUP, IT'S A BIRTHDAY PARTY.
IT IS A BIRTHDAY PARTY, YES.

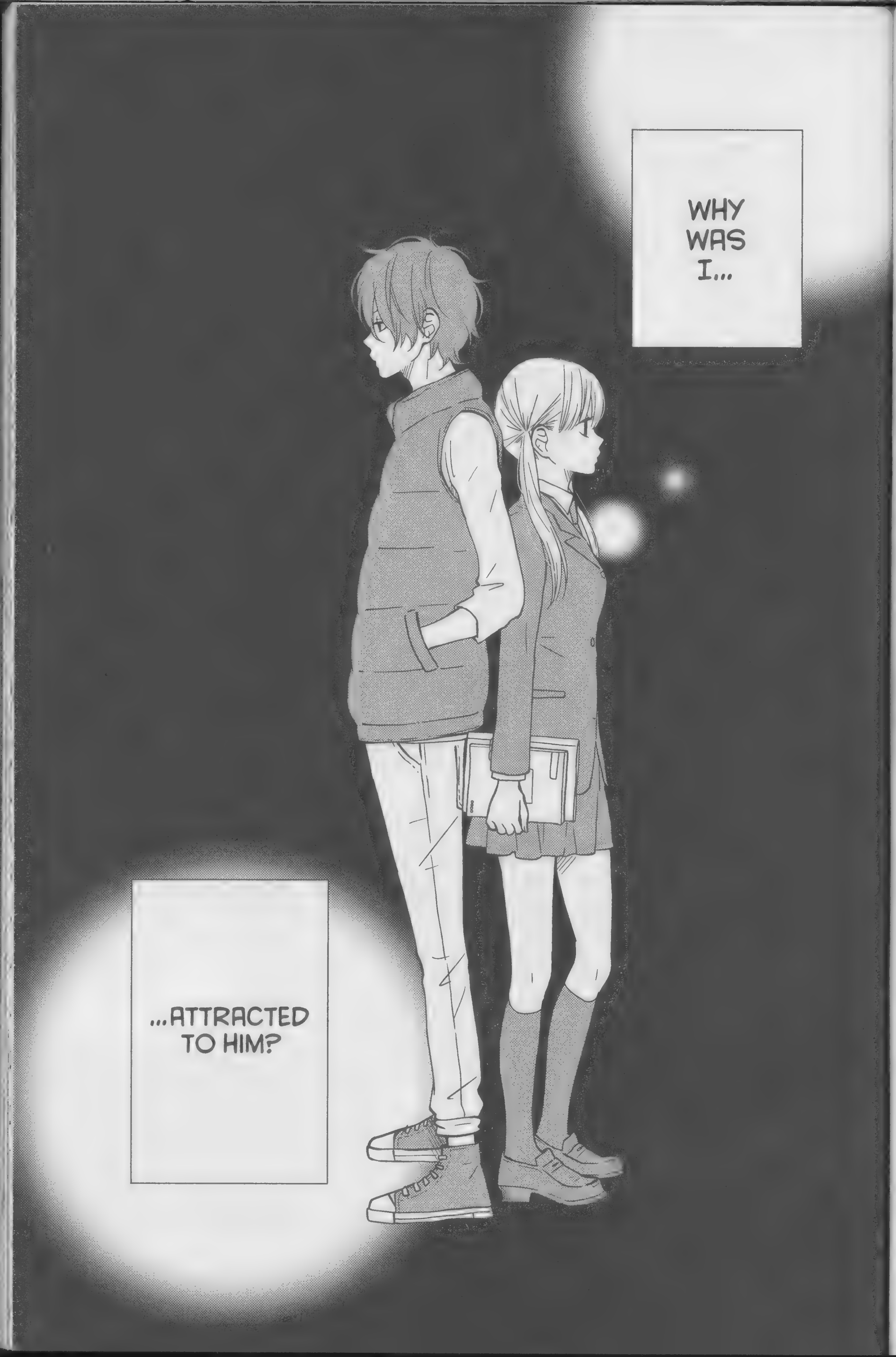

THIS IS BIRTHD PART ISN'T I
...?
ER, IS THERE, UM, A DRESS CODE?
HA HA HA!
不安
NERVOUS
NOT TO WORRY.
YUZAN-SAN GAVE ME HIS WALLET!
OH, HELLO? I'D LIKE TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR A YOUNG LADY.
YES, HAIR AND MAKEUP.
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING IN MIND?
I THINK THIS DRESS WOULD LOOK LOVELY ON YOU.

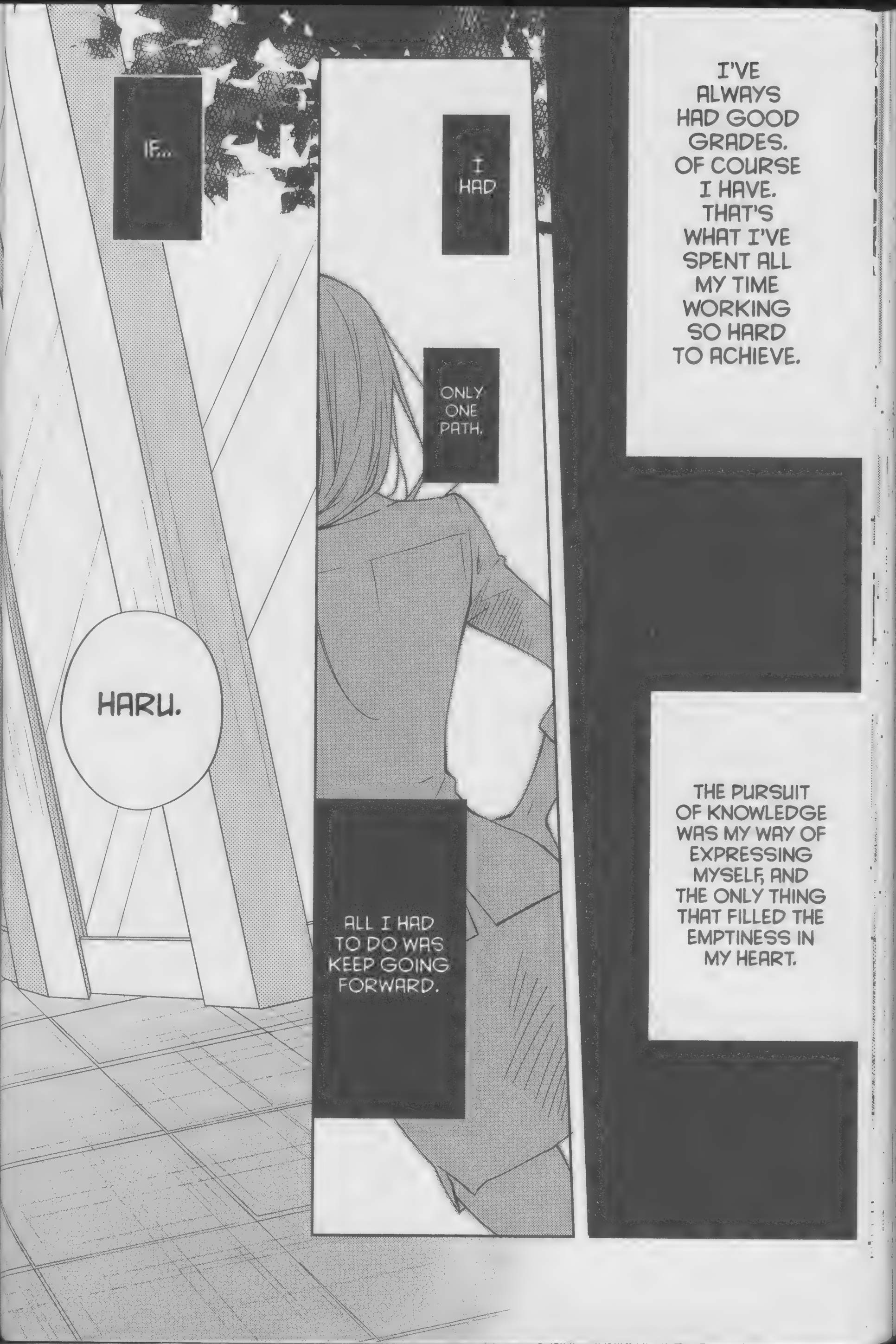

...
A WOMAN NEEDS TO WEAR SOMETHING REVEALING.
LET'S SHOW OFF YOUR LEGS, SHIZUKU-CHAN.
DON'T WORRY. WHATEVER A WOMAN LOOKS LIKE, CLOTHES AND MAKEUP CAN IMPROVE HER APPEARANCE UP TO 70%!
N-NO, THANK YOU!!
MISS? KEEP THE MINISKIRTS COMING!
YOU SHOULD'VE JUST BROUGHT THAT RABBIT HEAD.
WELL, WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, SO IF SHE TRIES TO RESIST, JUST PEEL THE CLOTHES OFF OF HER.
Y-YES, SIR.
NO!
I LOVE HARU.
NO!!
I WANT THINGS TO WORK OUT FOR HIM.
SO WHY...
...AM I SO NERVOUS?!

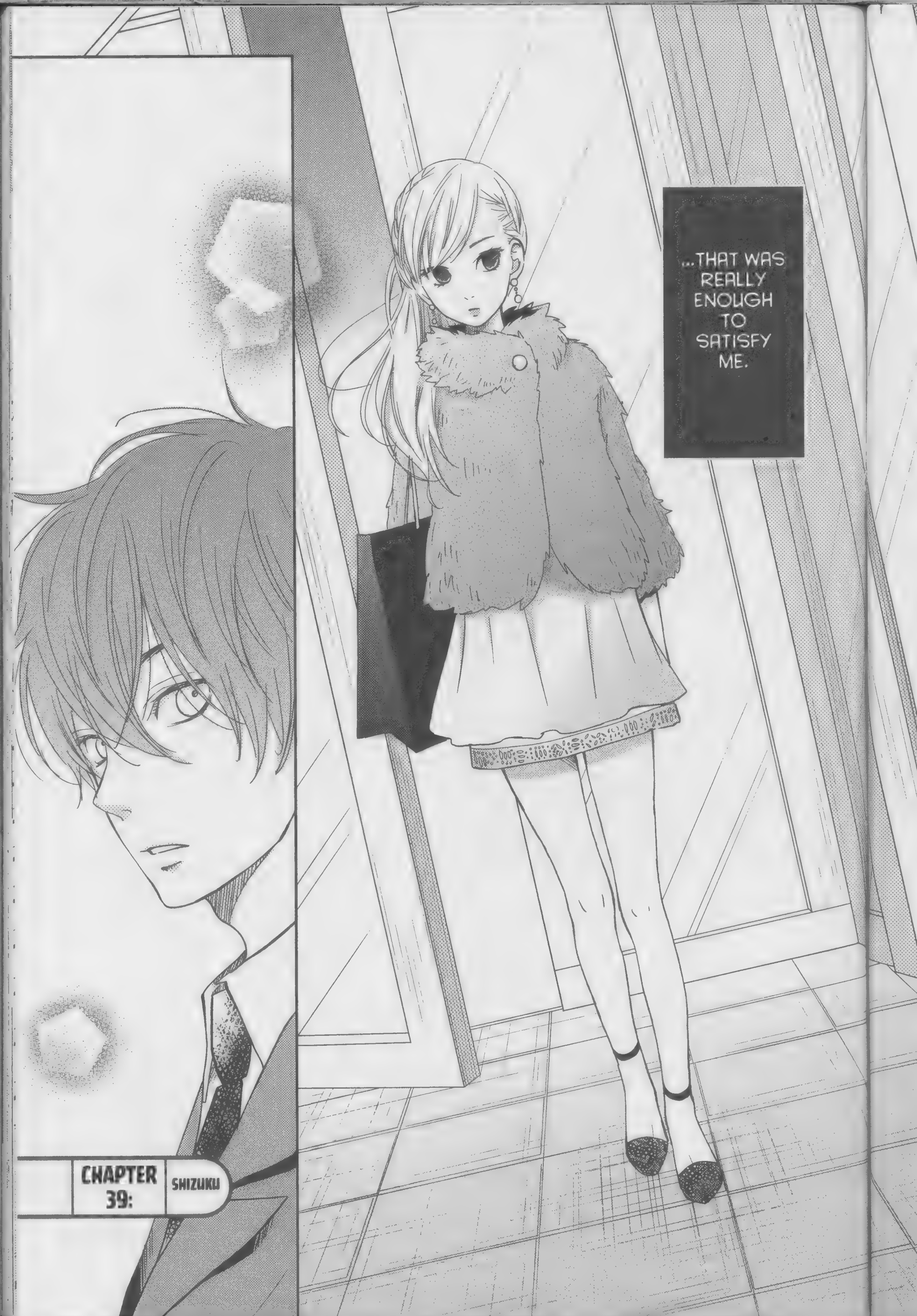
SIR, YES SIR!! CLASS A SCHOOL OF MANLINESS!!


I AM HACHIGASAKI, BOSS OF CLASS A!!
TODAY, I WILL BE DRILLING YOU MAGGOTS IN EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL!! GET READY!
YOU GOT IT, BOSS!!
YOU FOOLS! DON'T YOU KNOW HOW TO SAY SIR?!
YES!! SIR, YES, SIR!!
WE'LL START WITH YOU, SHIMOYANAGI!! GRINNING LIKE AN IDIOT! GIVE ME THE NAME OF YOUR MOST BELOVED WOMAN!!
IT'S GURIGURA, BOSS, SIR!!
ARE YOU UNDERESTIMATING THE POWER OF COPYRIGHT LAWS?! NOW, YOU! TERASHIMA!! YOU'RE ON THE BASEBALL TEAM! WHAT'S WITH THE LONG HAIR!!
MILK
NEXT!! YOSHIDA!!
YES, SIR! LET ME HAVE IT, BOSS, SIR!
YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR OWN CHARACTER! NOW SHUT UP AND LOOK AT ME!!
LIKE THIS?!
KRK
OOOH!
SO HANDSOME! ♡
EVERYONE, IT'S ALMOST TIME TO GO TO THE HOME EC ROOM TO PRACTICE MAKING CREPES!
AAAH, THAT WAS LOVELY! A FEAST FOR THE EYES!
OH, I'LL CARRY THAT FOR YOU, OSHIMA-SAN.
WALLA
WALLA
DONE PLAYING BOSS
KRK

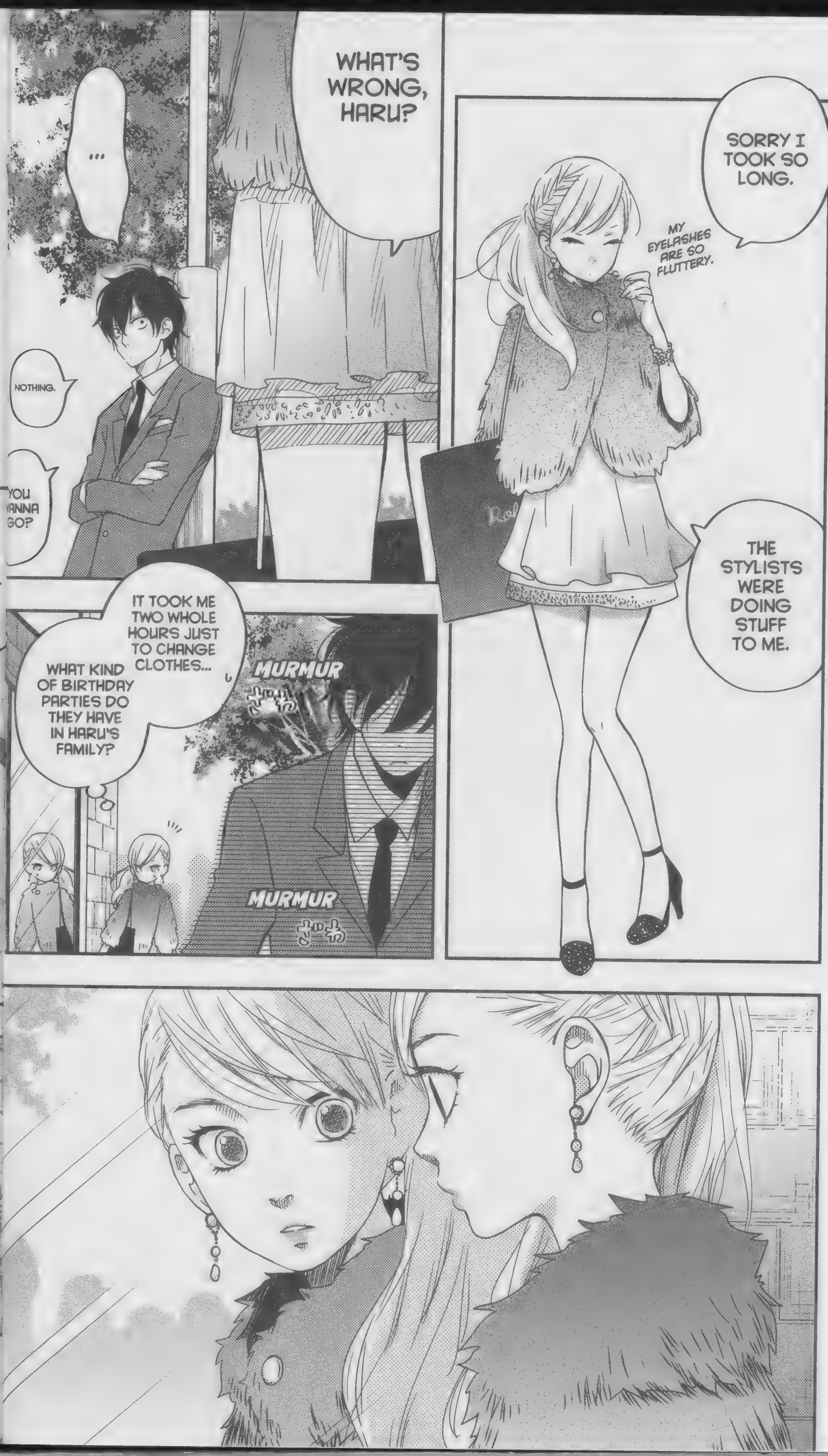

I DON'T WANNA HEAR "TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH" OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT! GOT IT?!
HM? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

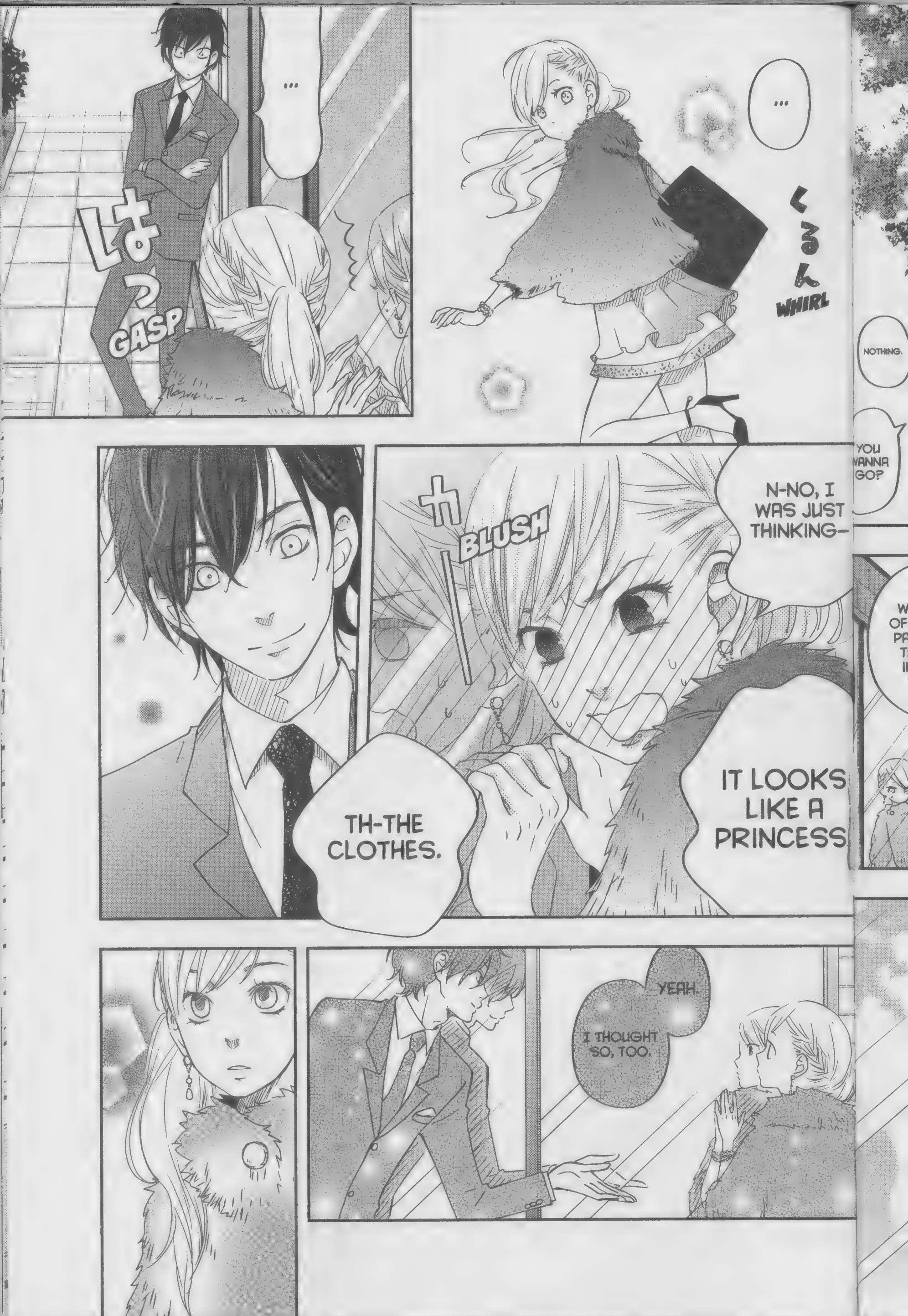

WHY WAS I...
...ATTRACTED TO HIM?

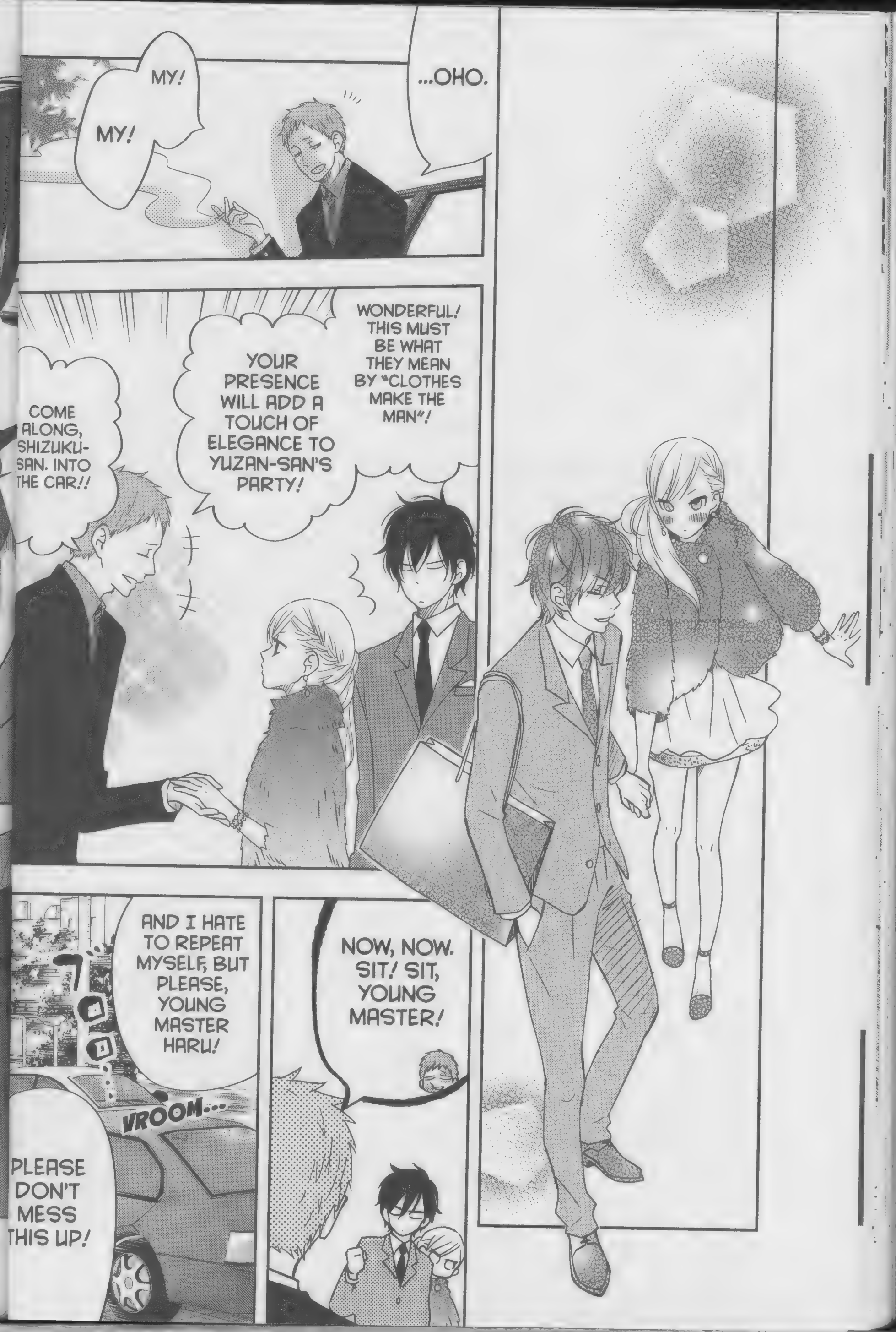

I'VE ALWAYS HAD GOOD GRADES. OF COURSE I HAVE. THAT'S WHAT I'VE SPENT ALL MY TIME WORKING SO HARD TO ACHIEVE.
THE PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE WAS MY WAY OF EXPRESSING MYSELF, AND THE ONLY THING THAT FILLED THE EMPTINESS IN MY HEART.
I HAD
ONLY ONE PATH.
ALL I HAD TO DO WAS KEEP GOING FORWARD.
IF...
HARU.

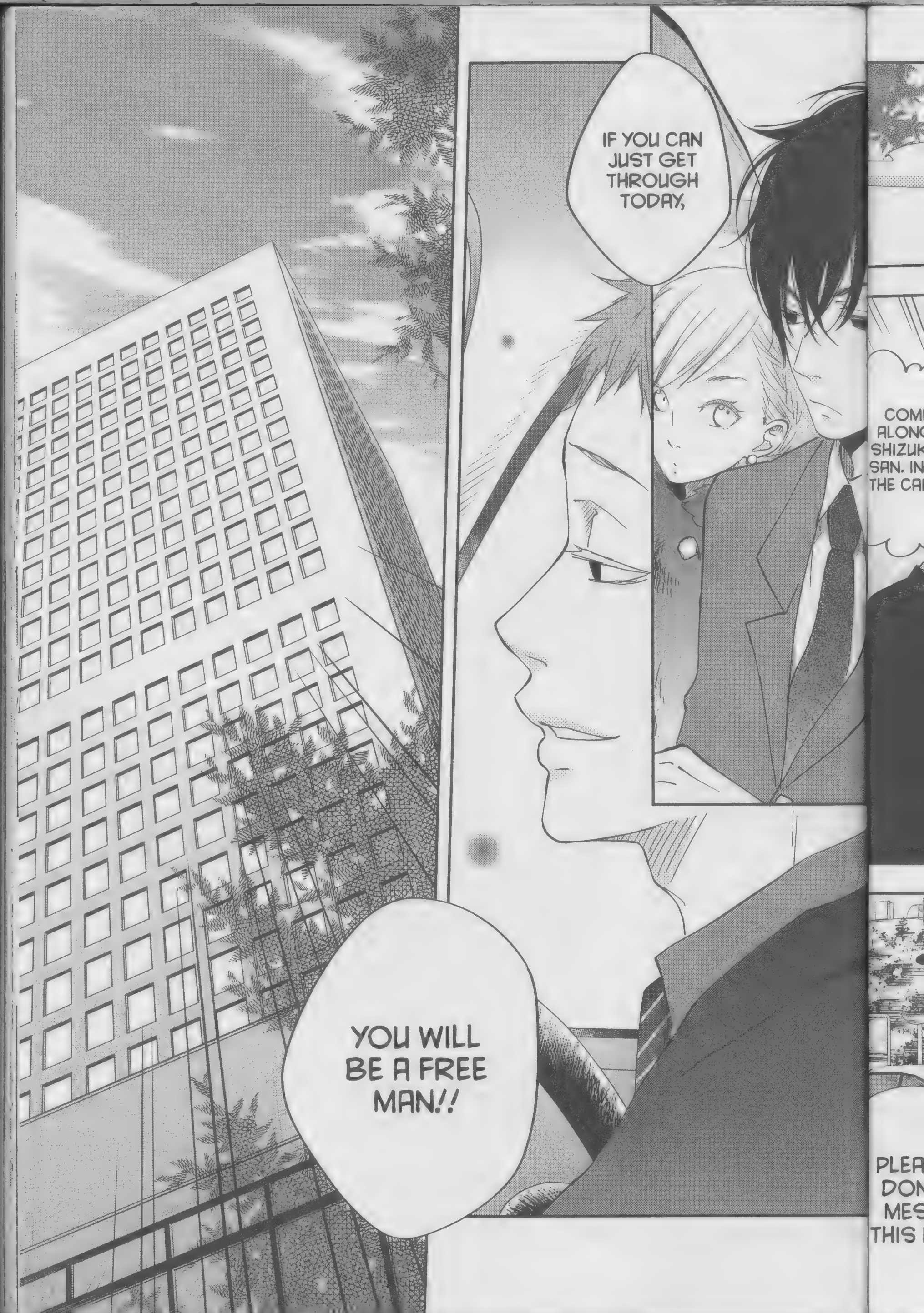

...THAT WAS REALLY ENOUGH TO SATISFY ME.

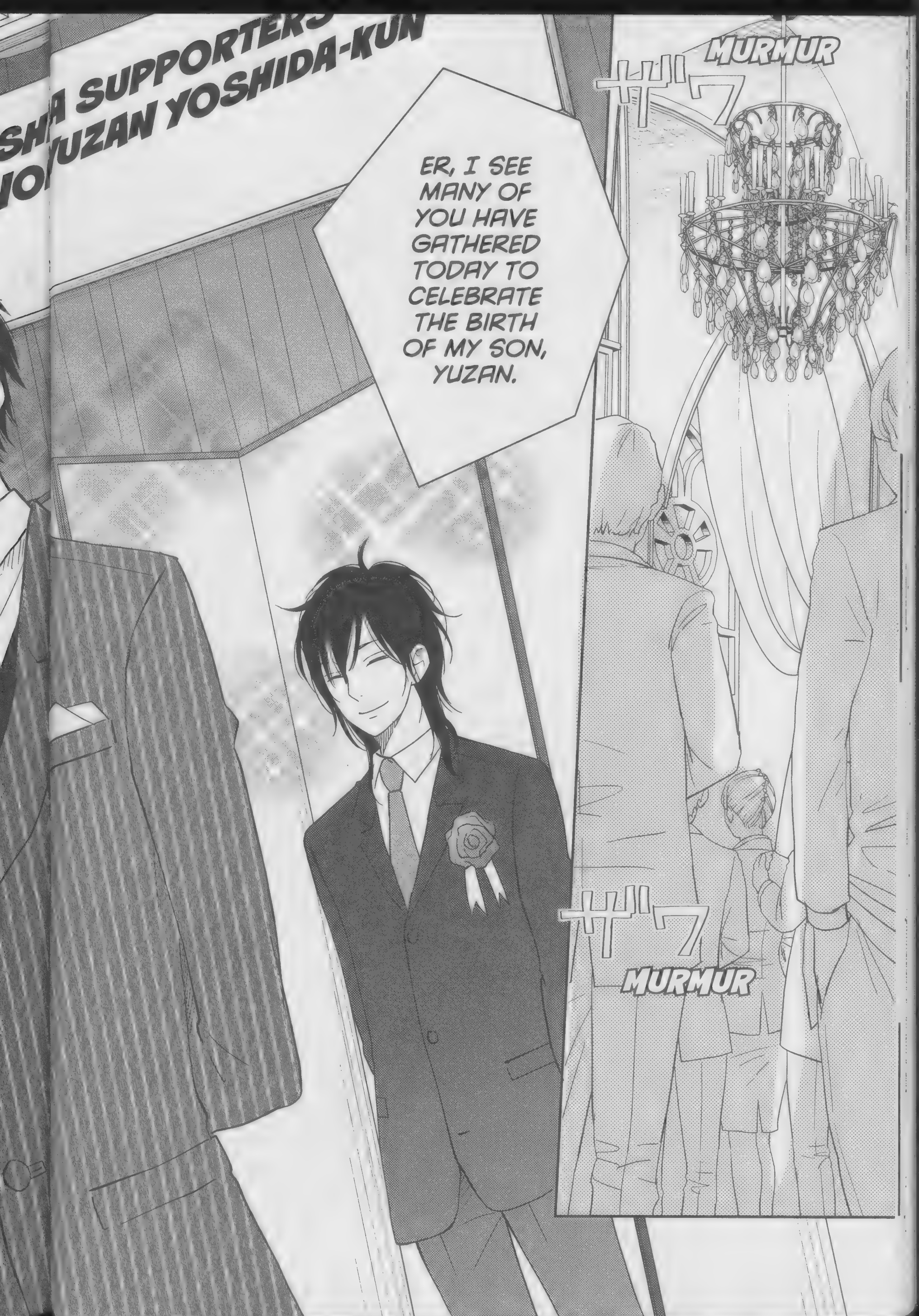
CHAPTER 39: SHIZUKU

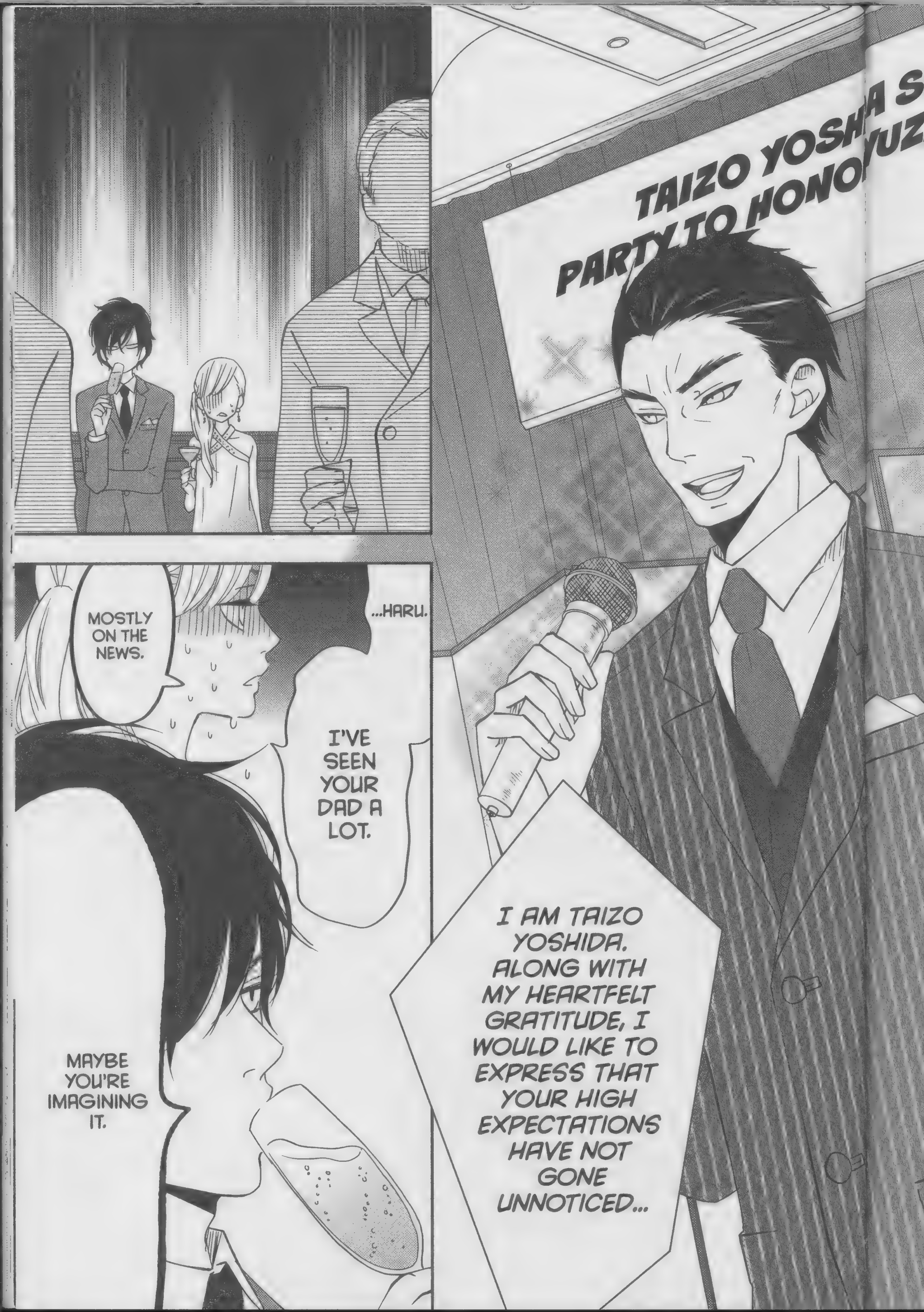

SORRY I TOOK SO LONG.
MY EYELASHES ARE SO FLUTTERY.
THE STYLISTS WERE DOING STUFF TO ME.
WHAT'S WRONG, HARU?
...
NOTHING.
YOU ANNA GO?
IT TOOK ME TWO WHOLE HOURS JUST TO CHANGE CLOTHES...
WHAT KIND OF BIRTHDAY PARTIES DO THEY HAVE IN HARU'S FAMILY?
MURMUR
ざわ
MURMUR
ざわ

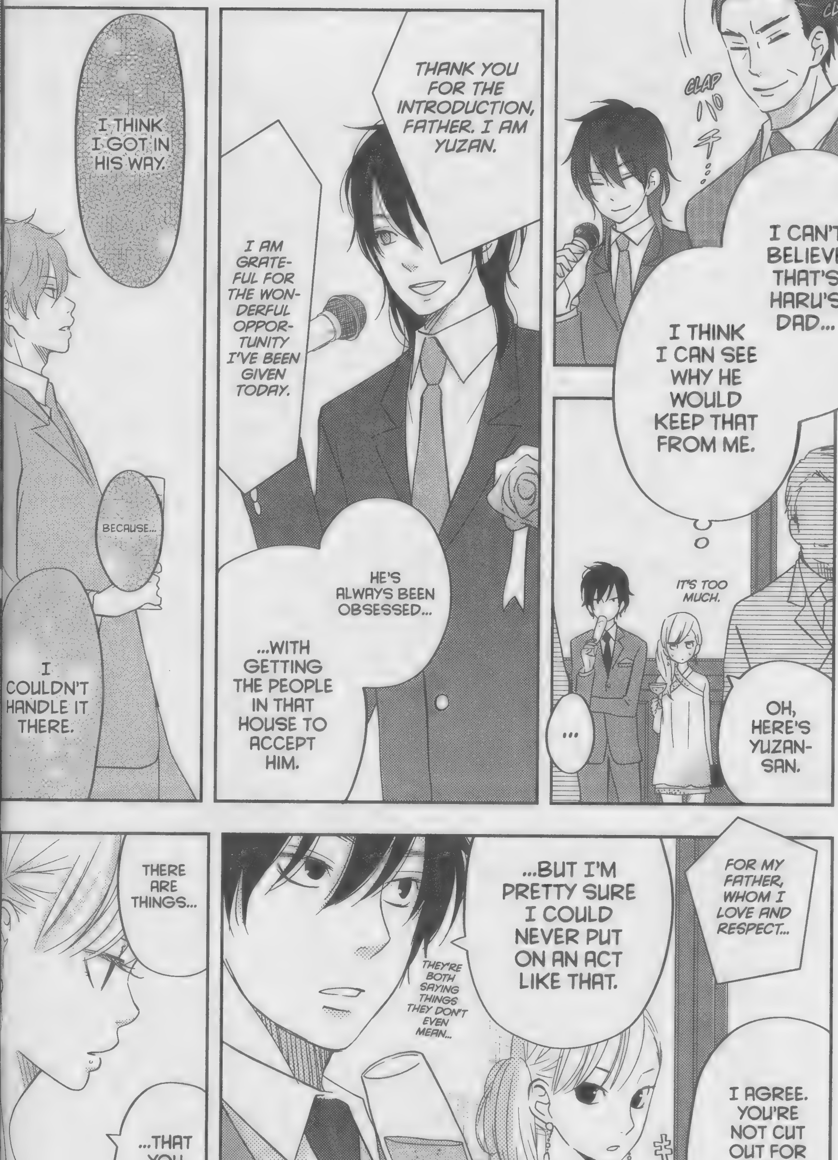

…
くるん
WHIRL
…
はっ
GASP
N-NO, I WAS JUST THINKING—
IT LOOKS LIKE A PRINCESS
カ
BLUSH
TH-THE CLOTHES.
YEAH.
I THOUGHT SO, TOO.
NOTHING.
YOU WANNA GO?

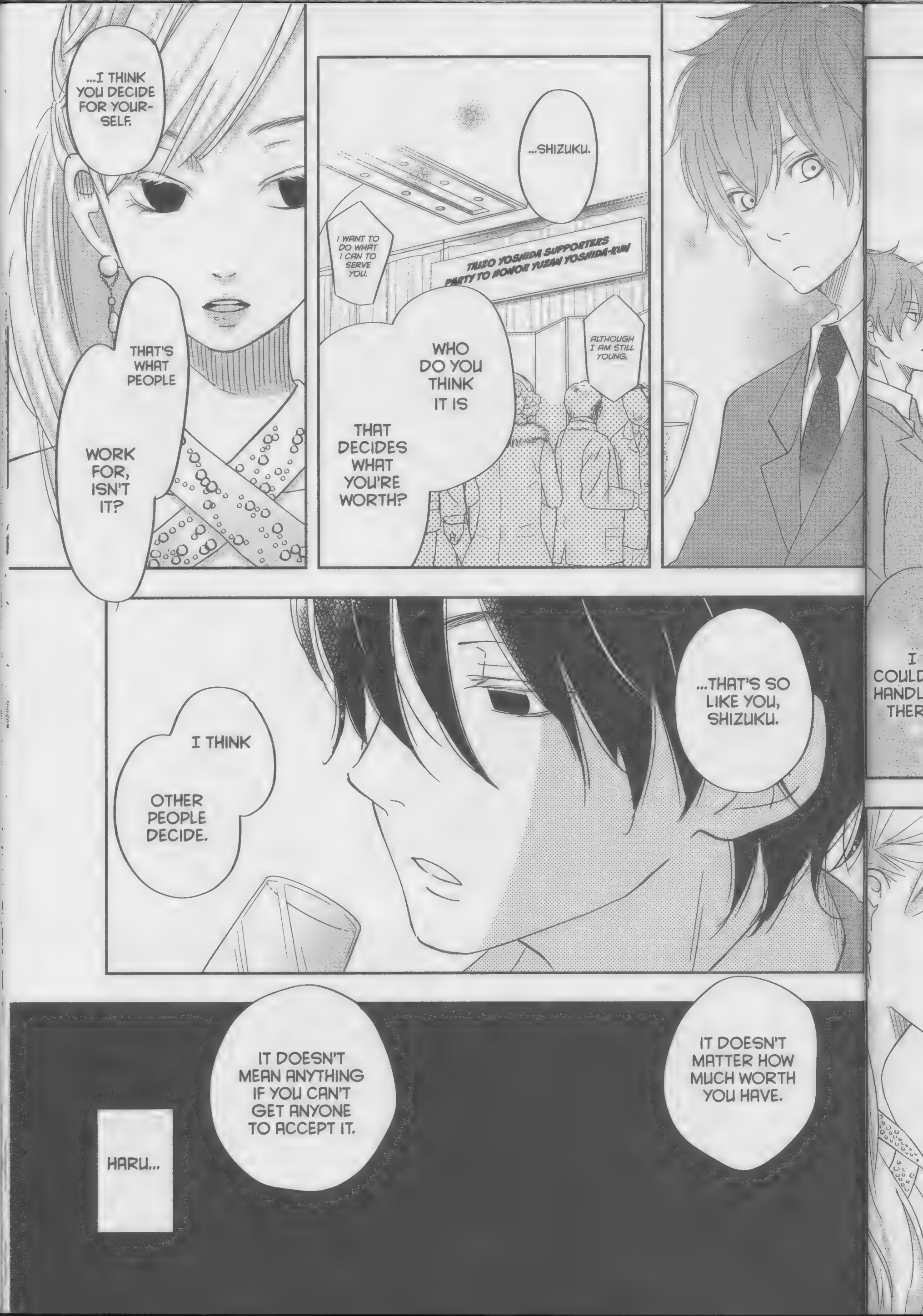

...OHO.
MY! MY!
WONDERFUL! THIS MUST BE WHAT THEY MEAN BY "CLOTHES MAKE THE MAN"!
YOUR PRESENCE WILL ADD A TOUCH OF ELEGANCE TO YUZAN-SAN'S PARTY!
COME ALONG, SHIZUKU-SAN. INTO THE CAR!!
NOW, NOW. SIT! SIT, YOUNG MASTER!
AND I HATE TO REPEAT MYSELF, BUT PLEASE, YOUNG MASTER HARU!
VROOM...
PLEASE DON'T MESS THIS UP!

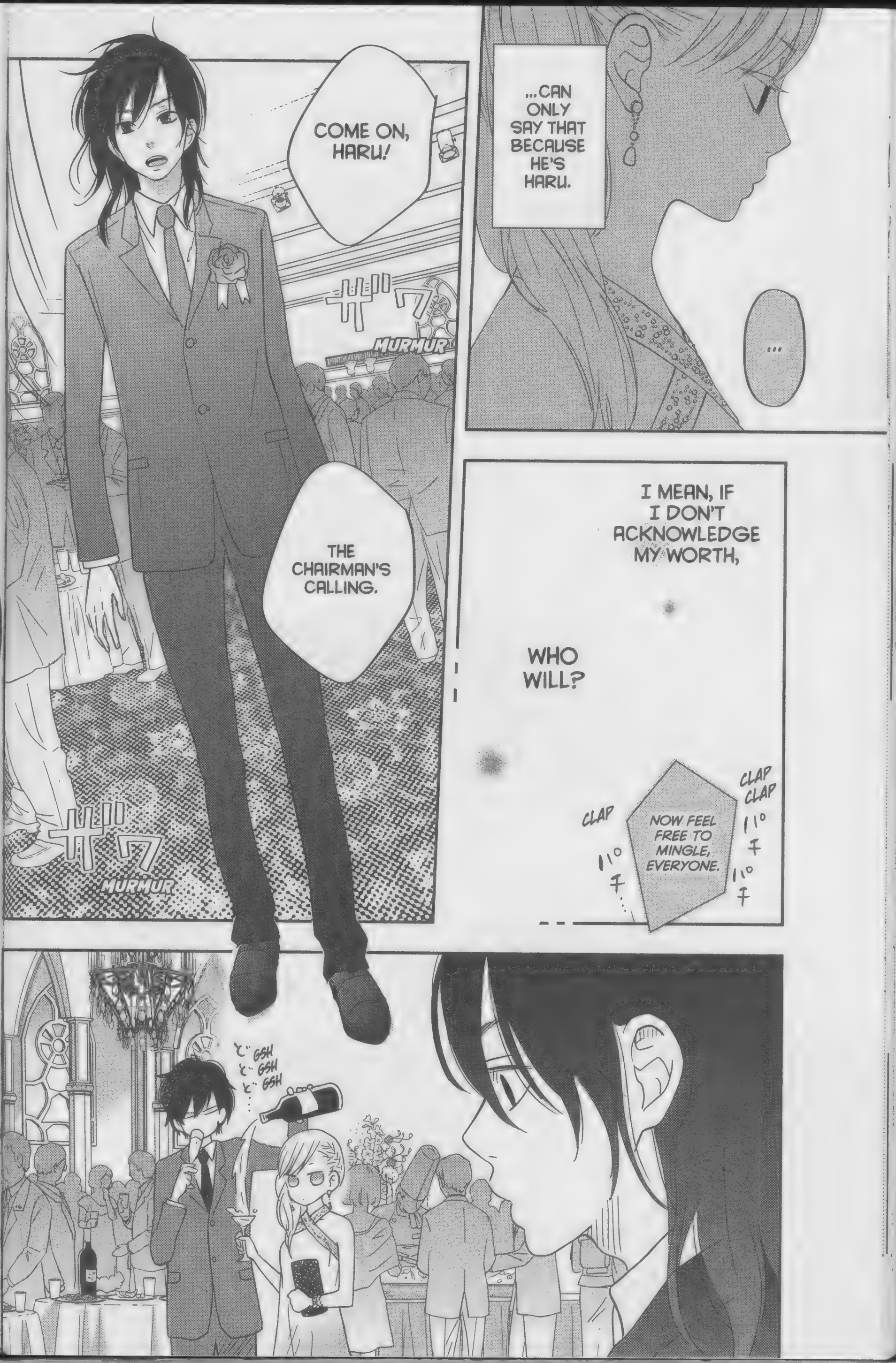

COM ALONG SHIZUK SAN. IN THE CA
PLEA DON MES THIS
IF YOU CAN JUST GET THROUGH TODAY,
YOU WILL BE A FREE MAN!!

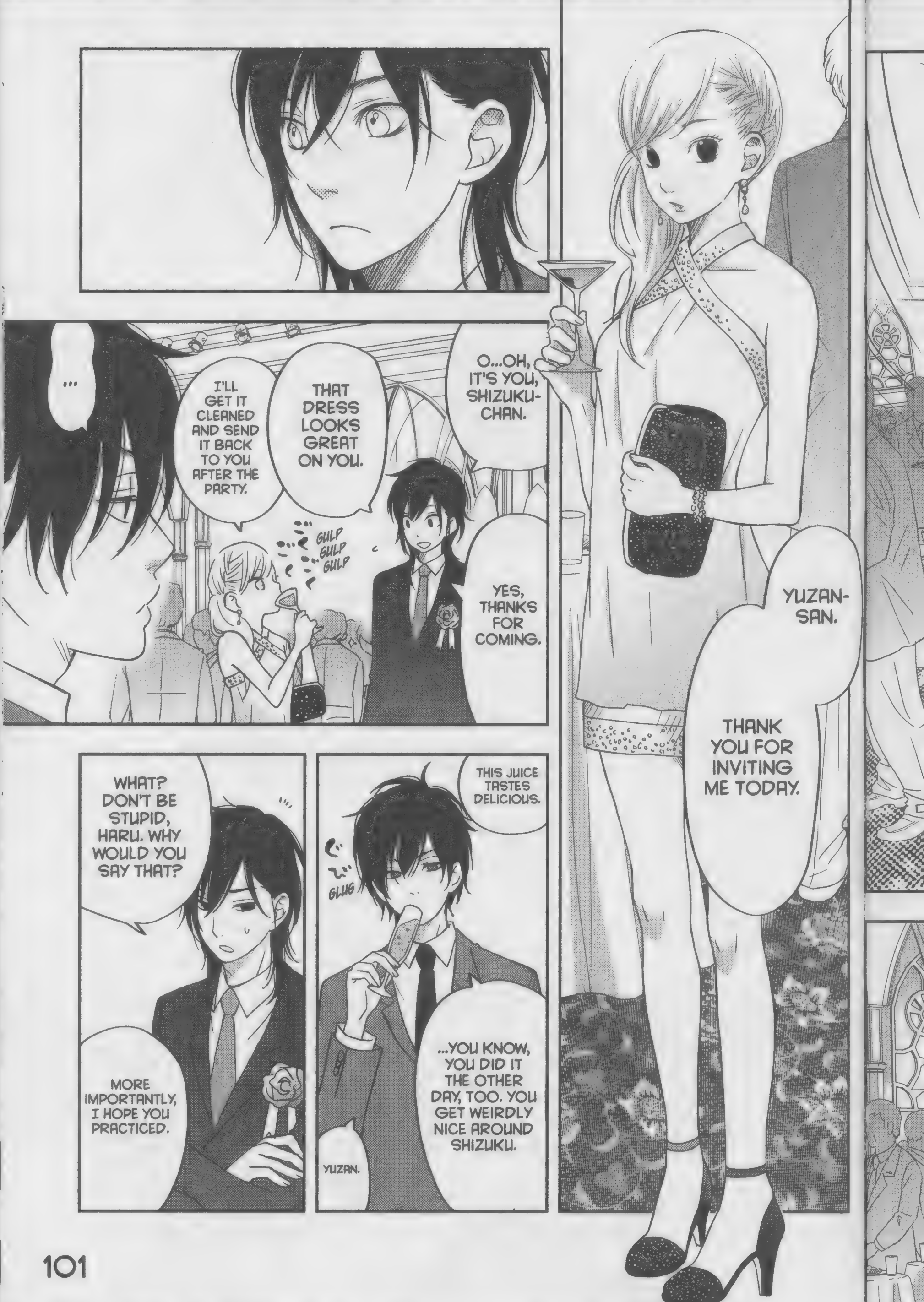

ザワ
MURMUR
ザワ
MURMUR
SHA SUPPORTERS
NO YUZAN YOSHIDA-KUN
ER, I SEE MANY OF YOU HAVE GATHERED TODAY TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF MY SON, YUZAN.

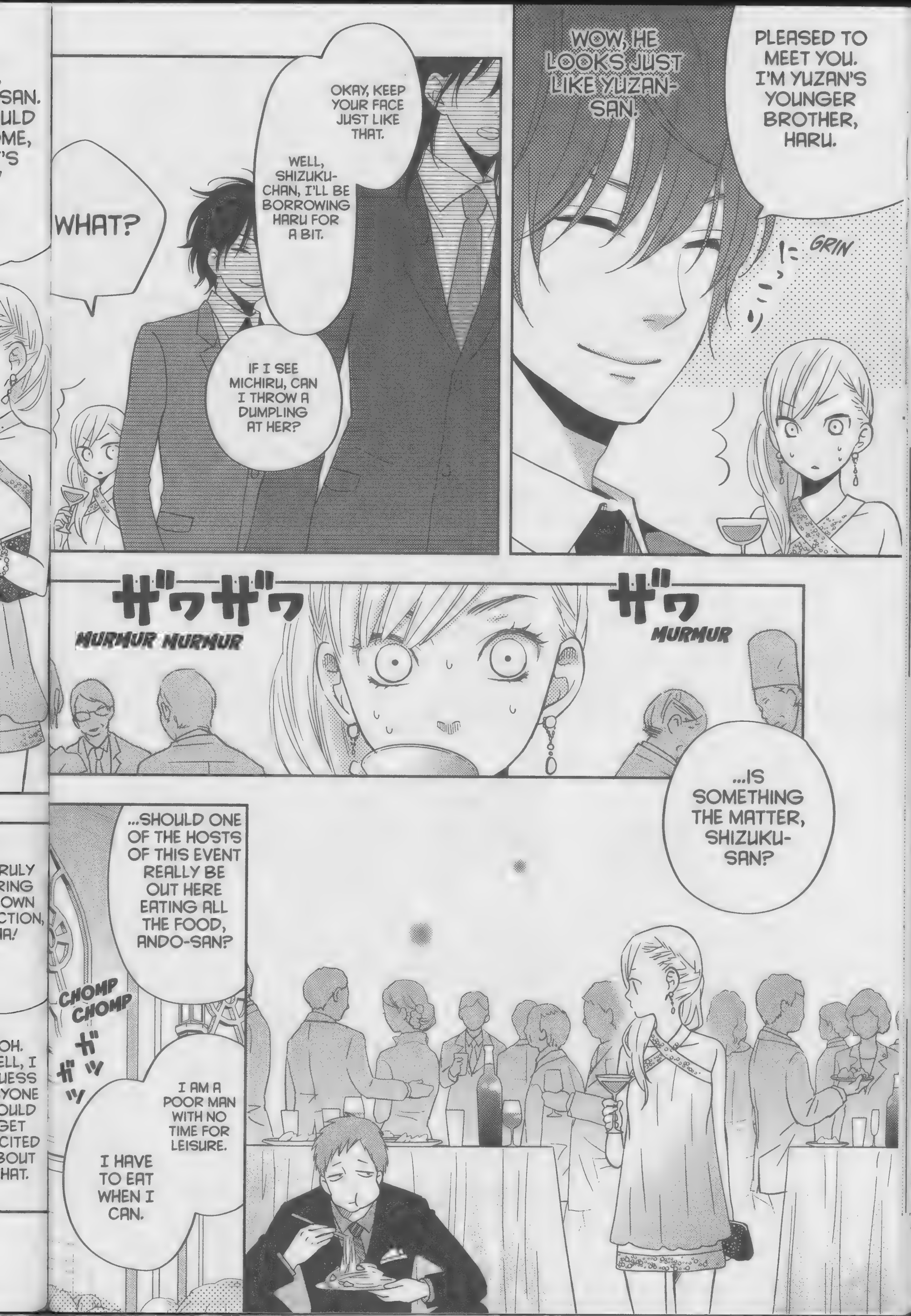

TAIZO YOSH A S
PARTY TO HONO YUZ
I AM TAIZO YOSHIDA. ALONG WITH MY HEARTFELT GRATITUDE, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THAT YOUR HIGH EXPECTATIONS HAVE NOT GONE UNNOTICED...
...HARU.
I'VE SEEN YOUR DAD A LOT.
MOSTLY ON THE NEWS.
MAYBE YOU'RE IMAGINING IT.

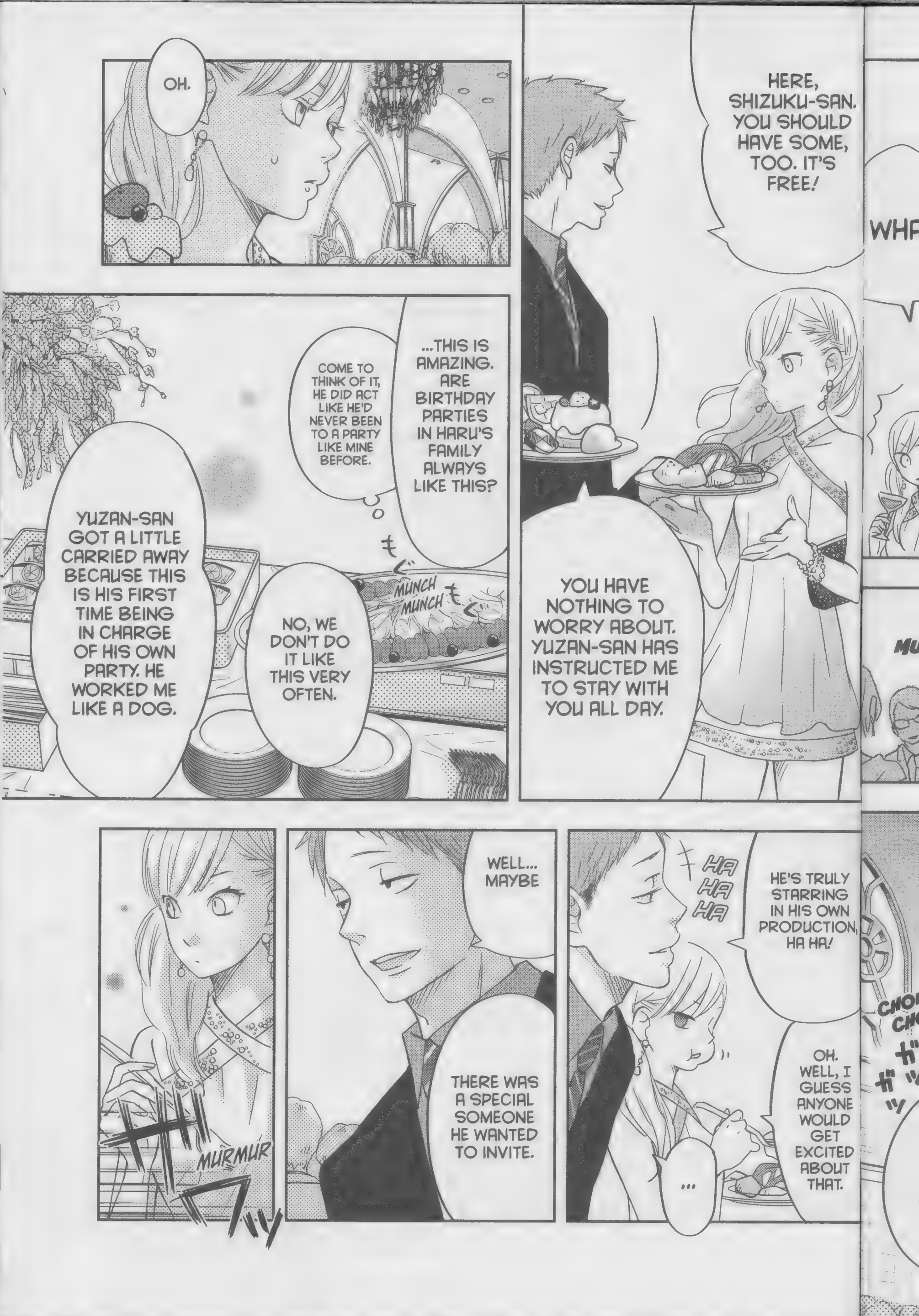

CLAP CLAP
CLAP
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT'S HARU'S DAD...
I THINK I CAN SEE WHY HE WOULD KEEP THAT FROM ME.
OH, HERE'S YUZAN-SAN.
IT'S TOO MUCH.
...
THANK YOU FOR THE INTRODUCTION, FATHER. I AM YUZAN.
I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY I'VE BEEN GIVEN TODAY.
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN OBSESSED...
...WITH GETTING THE PEOPLE IN THAT HOUSE TO ACCEPT HIM.
I THINK I GOT IN HIS WAY.
BECAUSE...
I COULDN'T HANDLE IT THERE.
FOR MY FATHER, WHOM I LOVE AND RESPECT...
...BUT I'M PRETTY SURE I COULD NEVER PUT ON AN ACT LIKE THAT.
THEY'RE BOTH SAYING THINGS THEY DON'T EVEN MEAN...
I AGREE. YOU'RE NOT CUT OUT FOR YOUR DAD'S KIND OF WORK.
BLUNT!
THERE ARE THINGS...
...THAT YOU CAN DO, HARU.

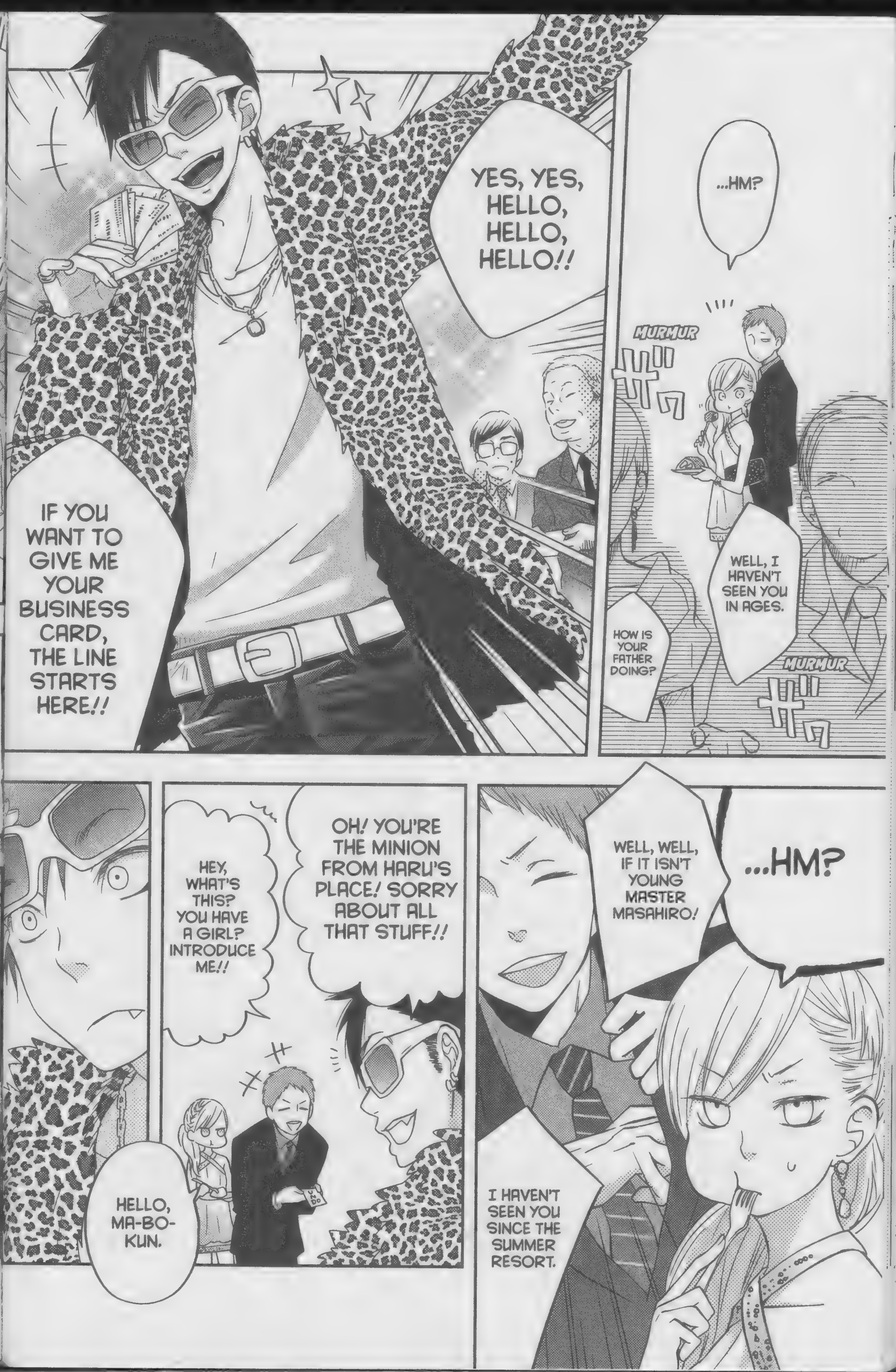

I
COULD
HANDL
THER
...SHIZUKU.
TAIZO YOSHIDA SUPPORTERS PARTY TO HONOR YUZAN YOSHIDA-KUN
ALTHOUGH I AM STILL YOUNG,
I WANT TO DO WHAT I CAN TO SERVE YOU.
WHO DO YOU THINK IT IS THAT DECIDES WHAT YOU'RE WORTH?
...I THINK YOU DECIDE FOR YOURSELF.
THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE WORK FOR, ISN'T IT?
...THAT'S SO LIKE YOU, SHIZUKU.
I THINK OTHER PEOPLE DECIDE.
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH WORTH YOU HAVE.
IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING IF YOU CAN'T GET ANYONE TO ACCEPT IT.
HARU...

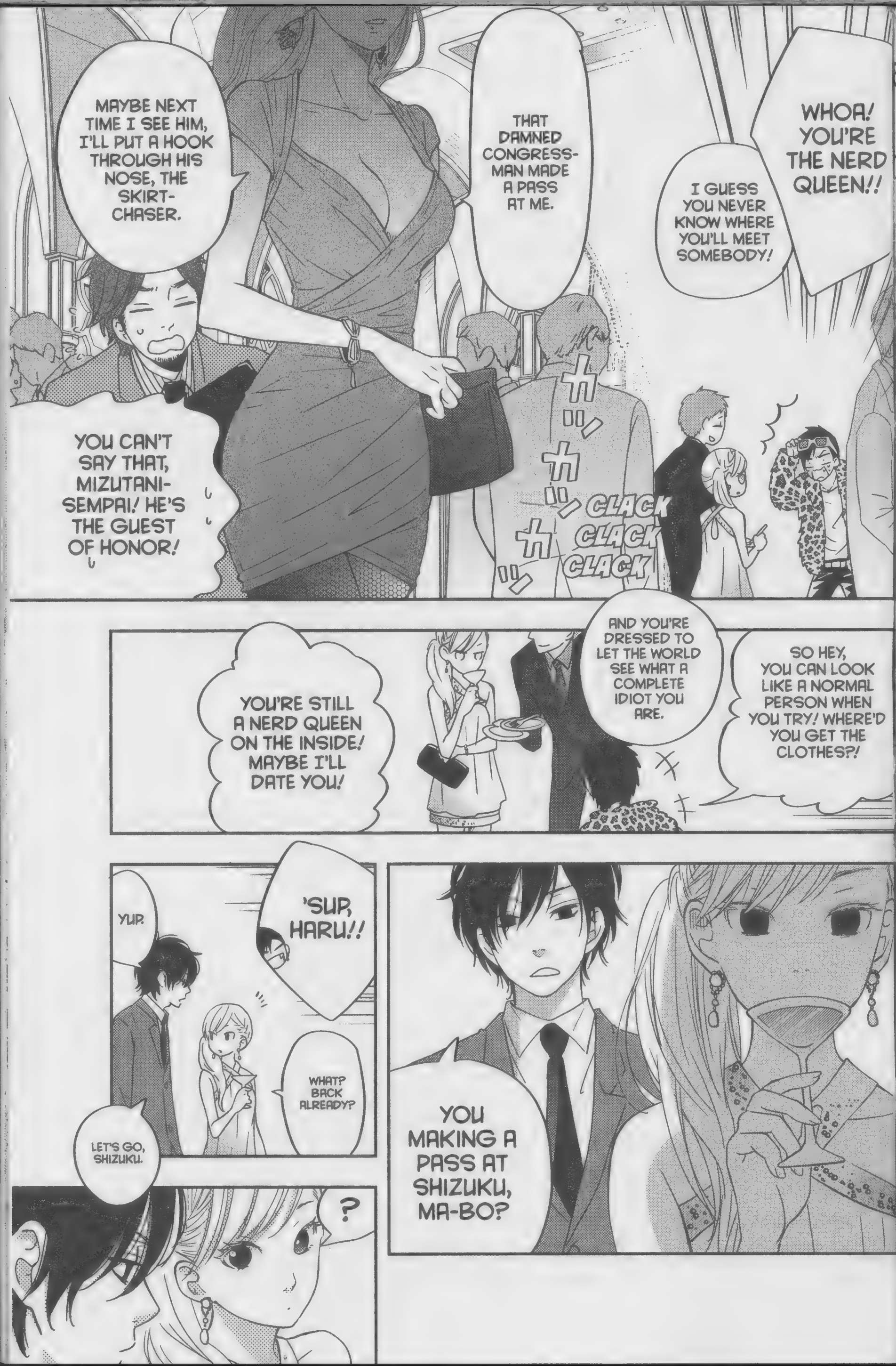

...CAN ONLY SAY THAT BECAUSE HE'S HARU.
...
I MEAN, IF I DON'T ACKNOWLEDGE MY WORTH,
WHO WILL?
NOW FEEL FREE TO MINGLE, EVERYONE.
CLAP
パチ
CLAP CLAP
パチ
パチ
COME ON, HARU!
ザワ
MURMUR
THE CHAIRMAN'S CALLING.
ザワ
MURMUR
ど GSH
ど GSH
ど GSH

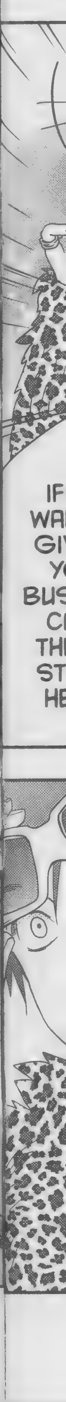

YUZAN-SAN.
THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TODAY.
O...OH, IT'S YOU, SHIZUKU-CHAN.
YES, THANKS FOR COMING.
THAT DRESS LOOKS GREAT ON YOU.
I'LL GET IT CLEANED AND SEND IT BACK TO YOU AFTER THE PARTY.
GULP GULP GULP
...
THIS JUICE TASTES DELICIOUS.
GLUG
...YOU KNOW, YOU DID IT THE OTHER DAY, TOO. YOU GET WEIRDLY NICE AROUND SHIZUKU.
YUZAN.
WHAT? DON'T BE STUPID, HARU. WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?
MORE IMPORTANTLY, I HOPE YOU PRACTICED.

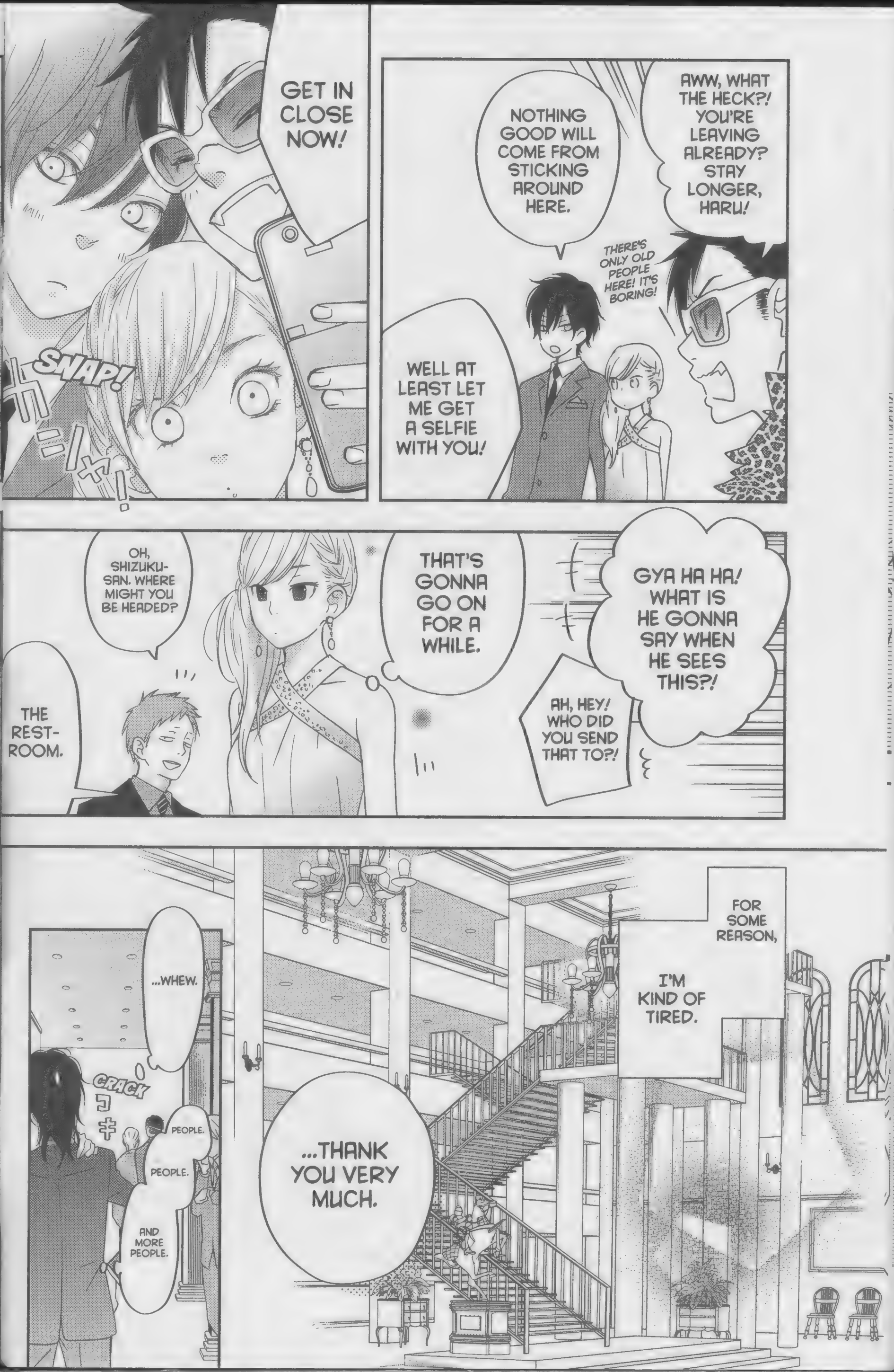

PLEASED TO MEET YOU. I'M YUZAN'S YOUNGER BROTHER, HARU.
WOW, HE LOOKS JUST LIKE YUZAN-SAN.
にっこり
GRIN
OKAY, KEEP YOUR FACE JUST LIKE THAT.
WELL, SHIZUKU-CHAN, I'LL BE BORROWING HARU FOR A BIT.
IF I SEE MICHIRU, CAN I THROW A DUMPLING AT HER?
WHAT?
ザワ
MURMUR
ザワザワ
MURMUR MURMUR
...IS SOMETHING THE MATTER, SHIZUKU-SAN?
...SHOULD ONE OF THE HOSTS OF THIS EVENT REALLY BE OUT HERE EATING ALL THE FOOD, ANDO-SAN?
ガッガッ
CHOMP CHOMP
I AM A POOR MAN WITH NO TIME FOR LEISURE.
I HAVE TO EAT WHEN I CAN.
SAN. ULD OME, 'S
RULY RING OWN CTION, A!
OH. ELL, I UESS YONE OULD GET CITED BOUT HAT.

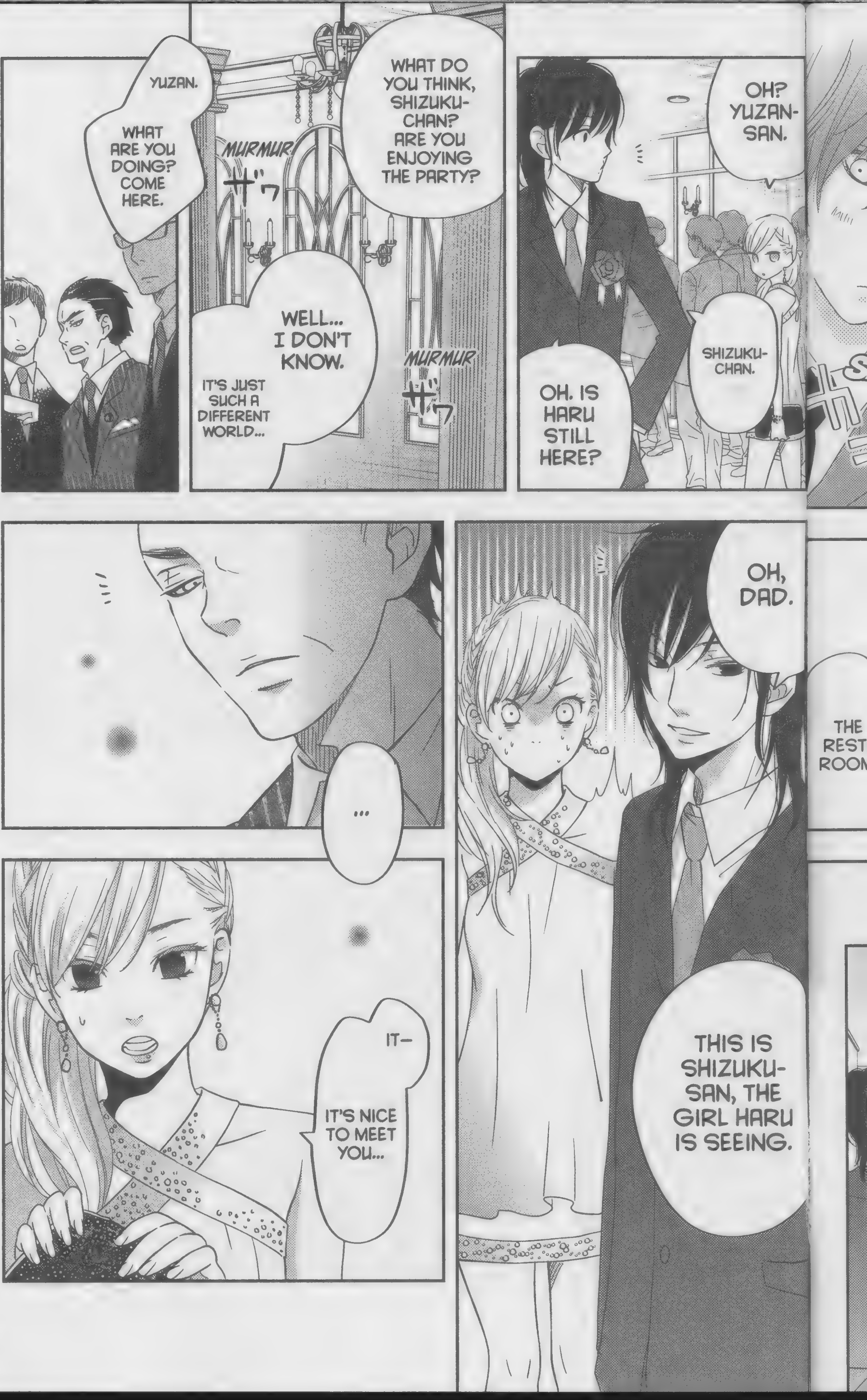

HERE, SHIZUKU-SAN. YOU SHOULD HAVE SOME, TOO. IT'S FREE!
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. YUZAN-SAN HAS INSTRUCTED ME TO STAY WITH YOU ALL DAY.
OH.
...THIS IS AMAZING. ARE BIRTHDAY PARTIES IN HARU'S FAMILY ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
COME TO THINK OF IT, HE DID ACT LIKE HE'D NEVER BEEN TO A PARTY LIKE MINE BEFORE.
MUNCH MUNCH
NO, WE DON'T DO IT LIKE THIS VERY OFTEN.
YUZAN-SAN GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY BECAUSE THIS IS HIS FIRST TIME BEING IN CHARGE OF HIS OWN PARTY. HE WORKED ME LIKE A DOG.
HA HA HA
HE'S TRULY STARRING IN HIS OWN PRODUCTION, HA HA!
OH. WELL, I GUESS ANYONE WOULD GET EXCITED ABOUT THAT.
...
WELL... MAYBE
THERE WAS A SPECIAL SOMEONE HE WANTED TO INVITE.
MURMUR

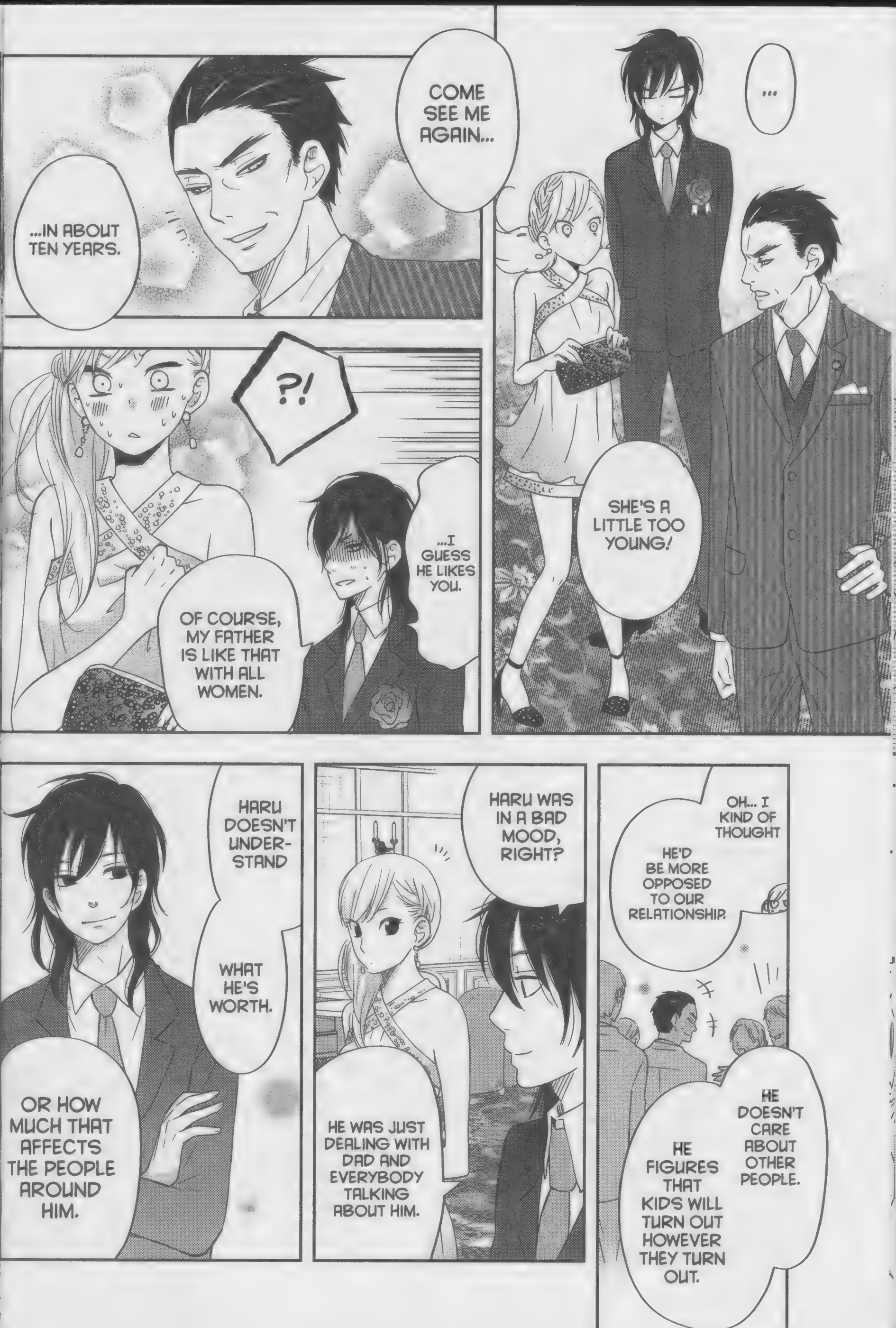

...HM?
MURMUR
ザワ
WELL, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN AGES.
HOW IS YOUR FATHER DOING?
MURMUR
ザワ
YES, YES, HELLO, HELLO, HELLO!!
IF YOU WANT TO GIVE ME YOUR BUSINESS CARD, THE LINE STARTS HERE!!
...HM?
WELL, WELL, IF IT ISN'T YOUNG MASTER MASAHIRO!
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE THE SUMMER RESORT.
OH! YOU'RE THE MINION FROM HARU'S PLACE! SORRY ABOUT ALL THAT STUFF!!
HEY, WHAT'S THIS? YOU HAVE A GIRL? INTRODUCE ME!!
HELLO, MA-BO-KUN.

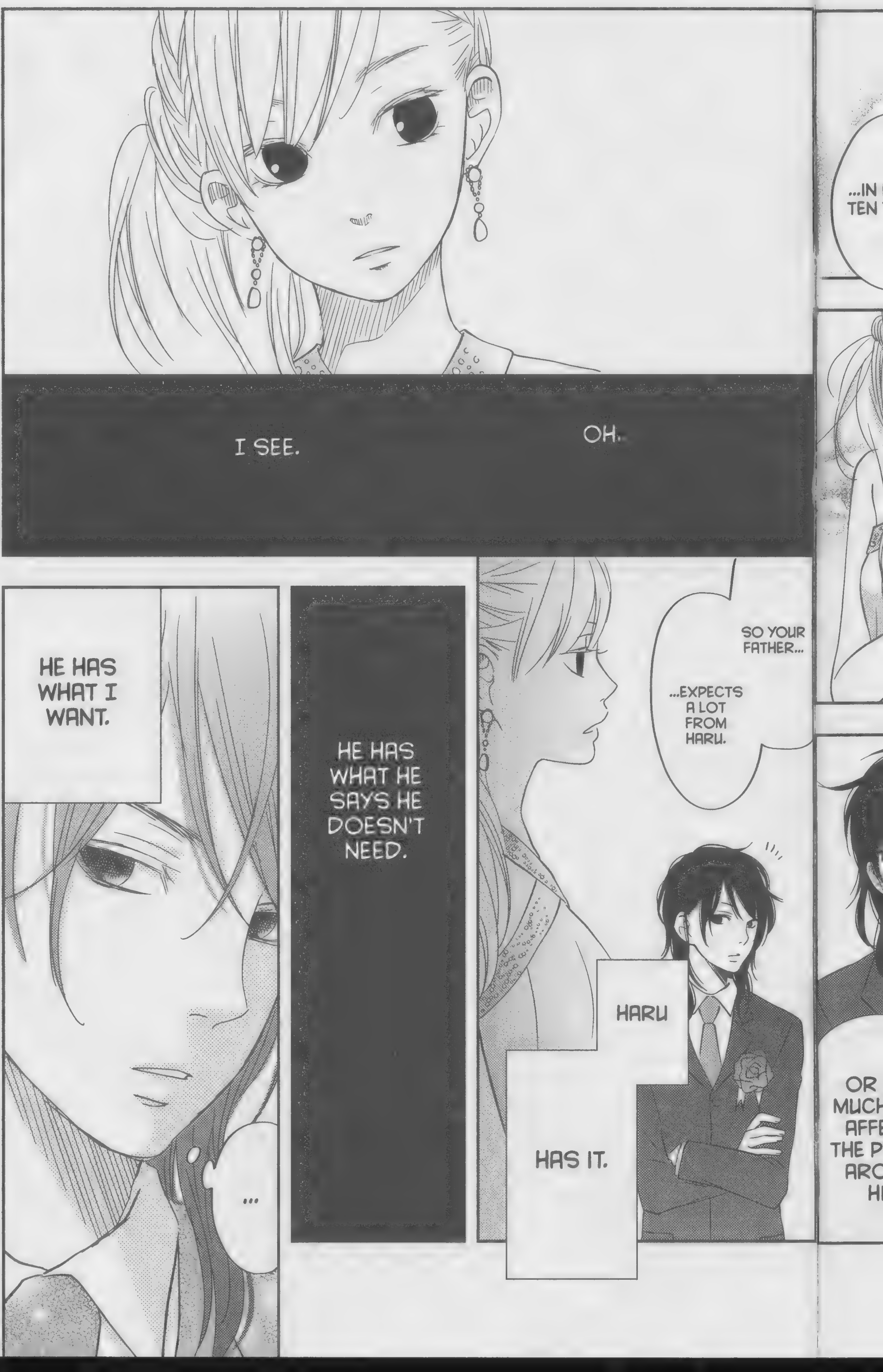

WHOA! YOU'RE THE NERD QUEEN!!
I GUESS YOU NEVER KNOW WHERE YOU'LL MEET SOMEBODY!
THAT DAMNED CONGRESSMAN MADE A PASS AT ME.
MAYBE NEXT TIME I SEE HIM, I'LL PUT A HOOK THROUGH HIS NOSE, THE SKIRT-CHASER.
CLACK CLACK CLACK
YOU CAN'T SAY THAT, MIZUTANI-SEMPAI! HE'S THE GUEST OF HONOR!
SO HEY, YOU CAN LOOK LIKE A NORMAL PERSON WHEN YOU TRY! WHERE'D YOU GET THE CLOTHES?!
AND YOU'RE DRESSED TO LET THE WORLD SEE WHAT A COMPLETE IDIOT YOU ARE.
YOU'RE STILL A NERD QUEEN ON THE INSIDE! MAYBE I'LL DATE YOU!
YOU MAKING A PASS AT SHIZUKU, MA-BO?
'SUP, HARU!!
YUP.
WHAT? BACK ALREADY?
LET'S GO, SHIZUKU.
?

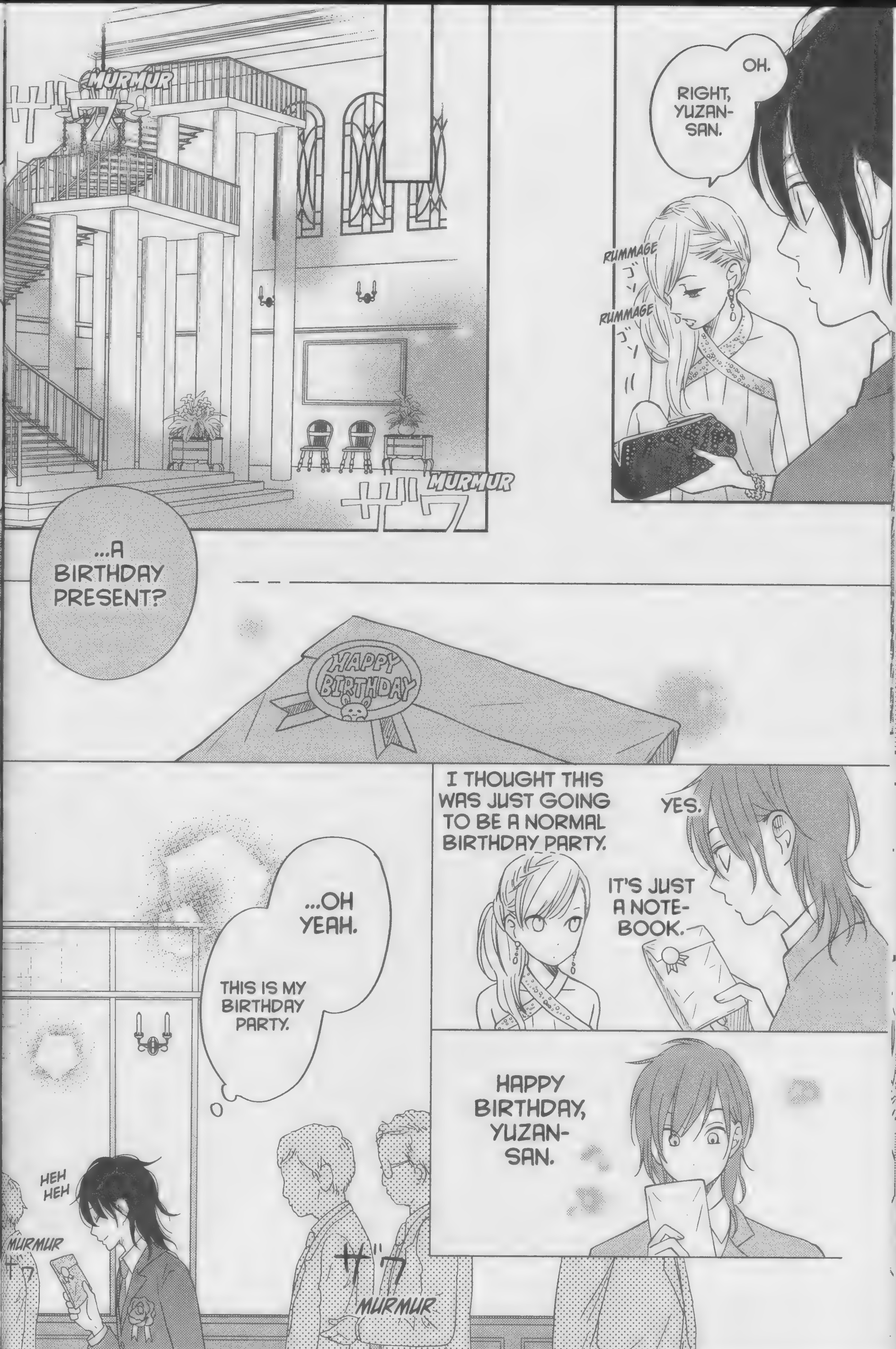

IF WA GI Y BUS C TH ST HE

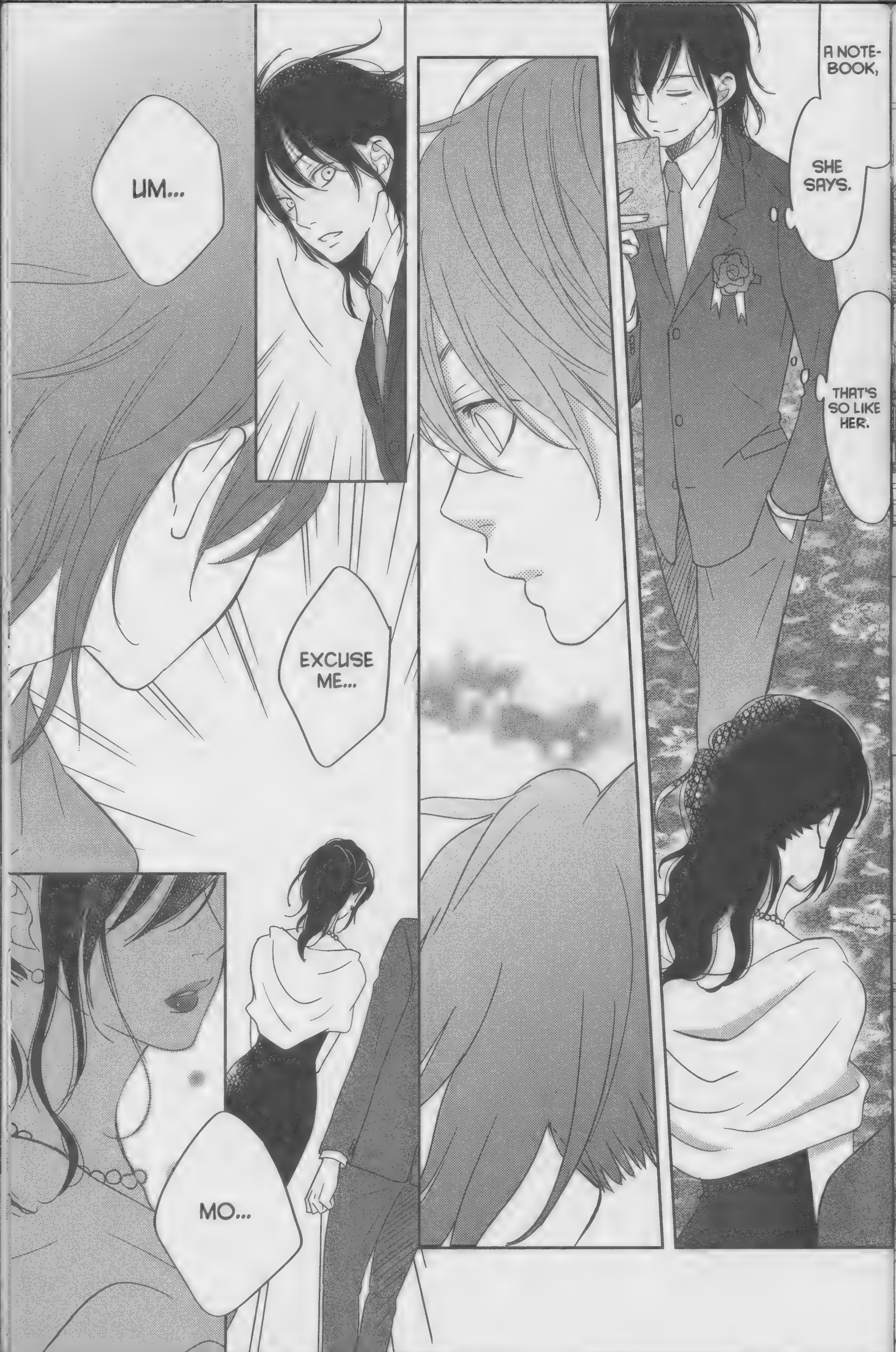

AWW, WHAT THE HECK?! YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY? STAY LONGER, HARU!
NOTHING GOOD WILL COME FROM STICKING AROUND HERE.
THERE'S ONLY OLD PEOPLE HERE! IT'S BORING!
WELL AT LEAST LET ME GET A SELFIE WITH YOU!
GET IN CLOSE NOW!
SNAP!
GYA HA HA! WHAT IS HE GONNA SAY WHEN HE SEES THIS?!
AH, HEY! WHO DID YOU SEND THAT TO?!
THAT'S GONNA GO ON FOR A WHILE.
OH, SHIZUKU-SAN. WHERE MIGHT YOU BE HEADED?
THE REST-ROOM.
FOR SOME REASON,
I'M KIND OF TIRED.
...THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
...WHEW.
CRACK
コキ
PEOPLE.
PEOPLE.
AND MORE PEOPLE.

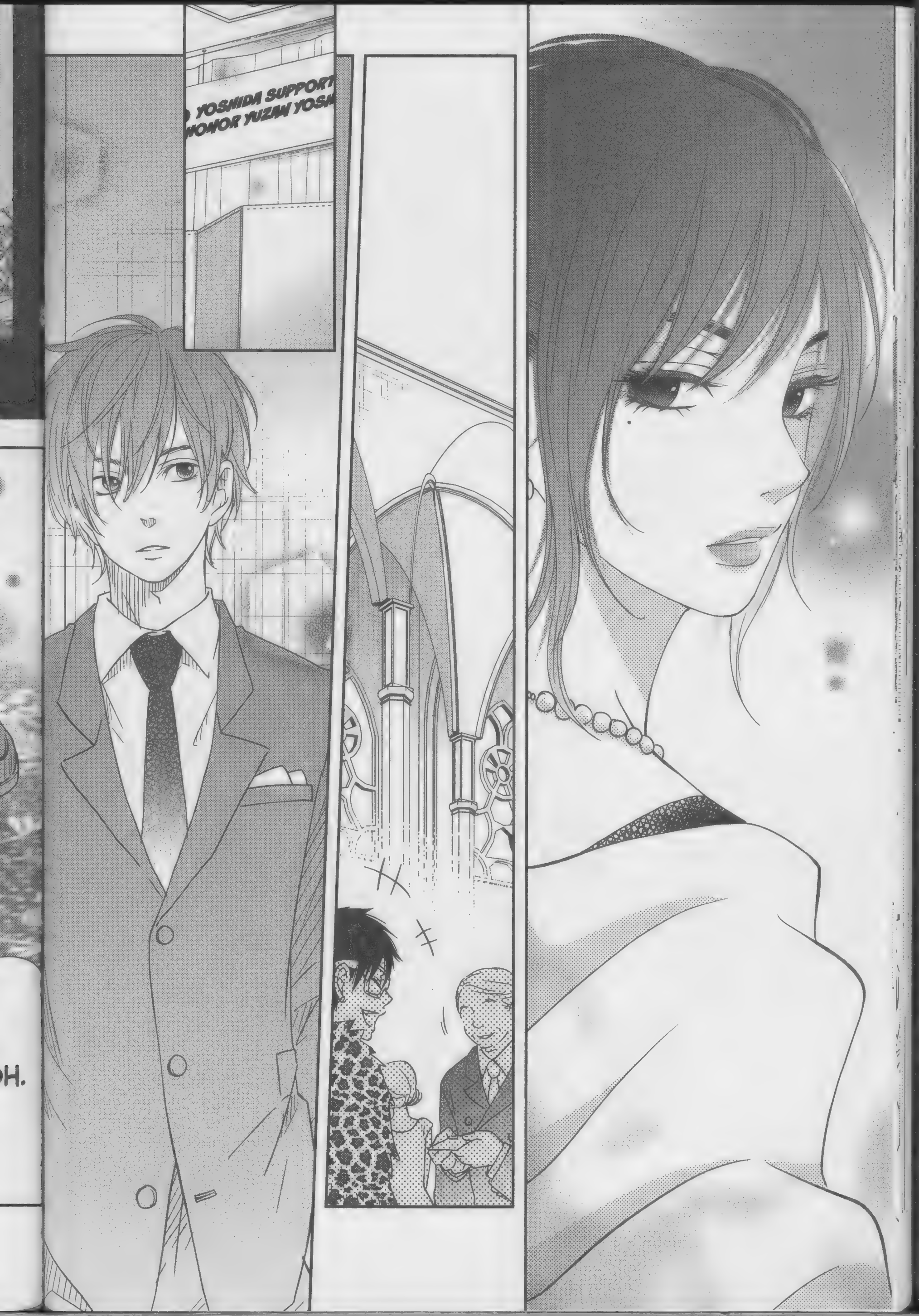

OH? YUZAN-SAN.
SHIZUKU-CHAN.
OH. IS HARU STILL HERE?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, SHIZUKU-CHAN? ARE YOU ENJOYING THE PARTY?
MURMUR ザワ
WELL... I DON'T KNOW.
IT'S JUST SUCH A DIFFERENT WORLD...
MURMUR ザワ
YUZAN.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? COME HERE.
THE REST ROO
OH, DAD.
THIS IS SHIZUKU-SAN, THE GIRL HARU IS SEEING.
...
IT—
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU...

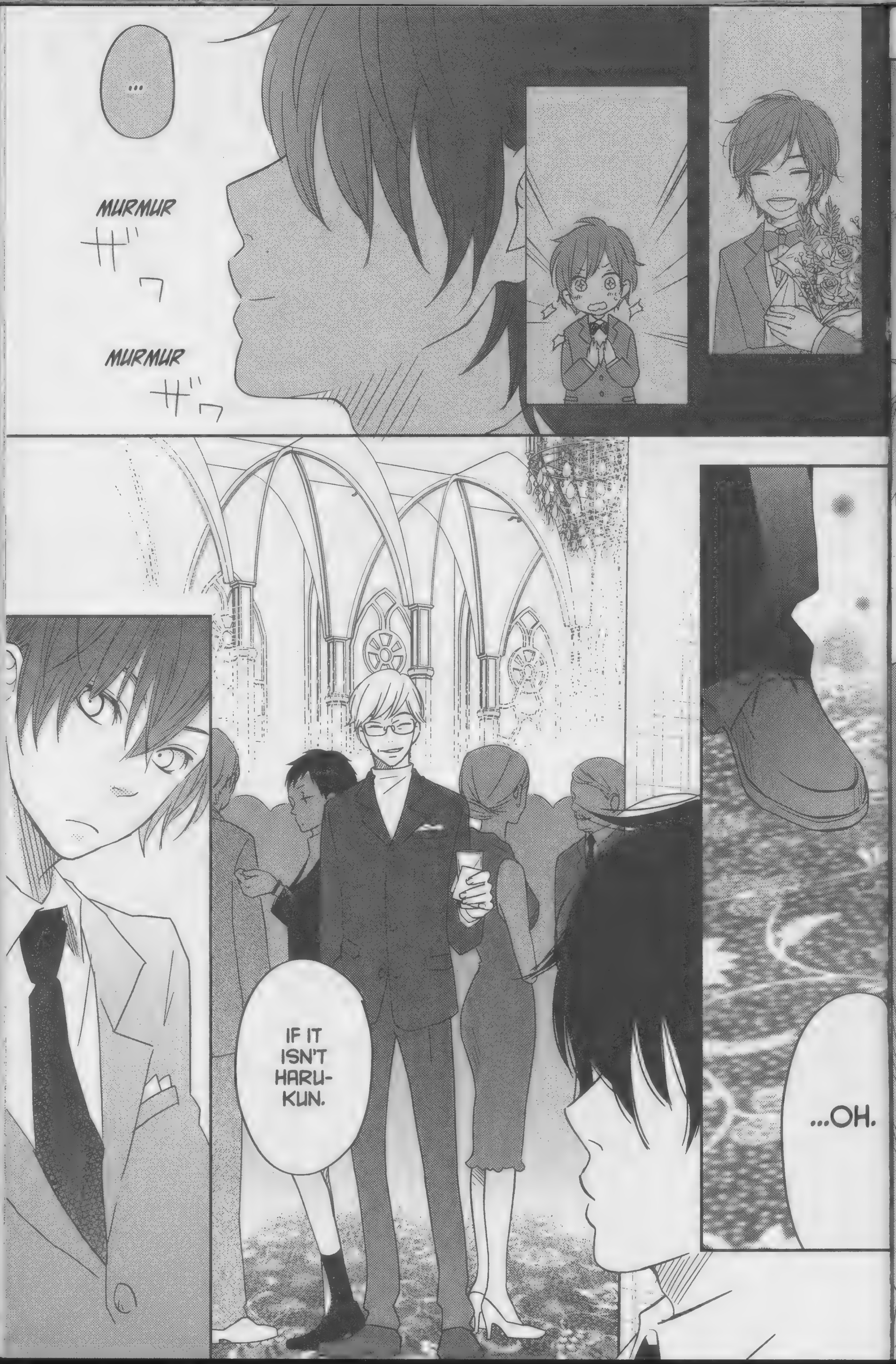

...
SHE'S A LITTLE TOO YOUNG!
COME SEE ME AGAIN...
...IN ABOUT TEN YEARS.
?!
...I GUESS HE LIKES YOU.
OF COURSE, MY FATHER IS LIKE THAT WITH ALL WOMEN.
OH... I KIND OF THOUGHT HE'D BE MORE OPPOSED TO OUR RELATIONSHIP.
HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE.
HE FIGURES THAT KIDS WILL TURN OUT HOWEVER THEY TURN OUT.
HARU WAS IN A BAD MOOD, RIGHT?
HE WAS JUST DEALING WITH DAD AND EVERYBODY TALKING ABOUT HIM.
HARU DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HE'S WORTH.
OR HOW MUCH THAT AFFECTS THE PEOPLE AROUND HIM.


...IN
TEN
OR
MUCH
AFFE
THE P
ARO
HI
OH.
I SEE.
SO YOUR FATHER...
...EXPECTS A LOT FROM HARU.
HARU
HAS IT.
HE HAS WHAT HE SAYS HE DOESN'T NEED.
HE HAS WHAT I WANT.
...

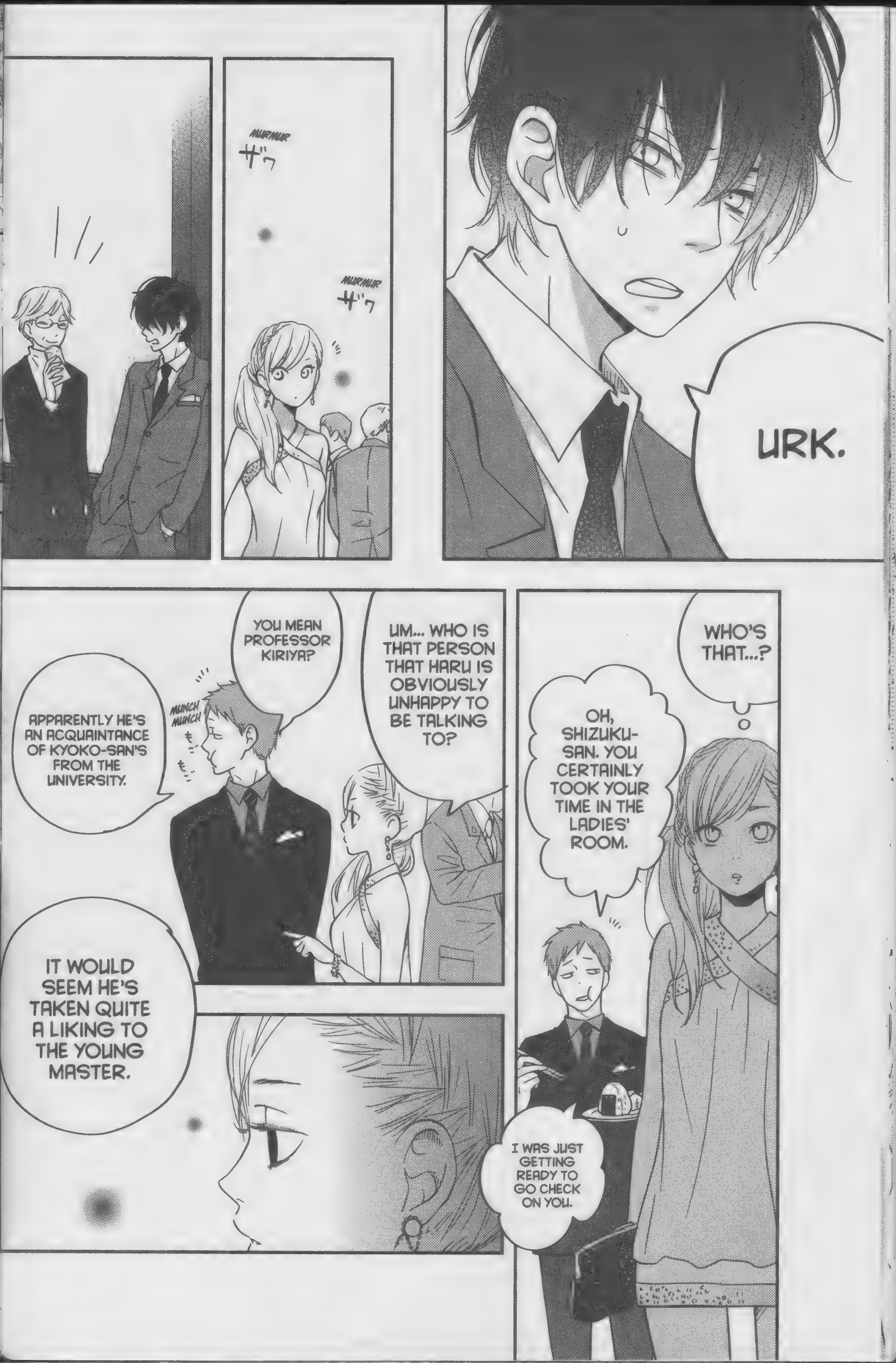

OH.
RIGHT, YUZAN-SAN.
RUMMAGE ゴソ
RUMMAGE ゴソ
MURMUR ザワ
MURMUR ザワ
...A BIRTHDAY PRESENT?
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
YES.
I THOUGHT THIS WAS JUST GOING TO BE A NORMAL BIRTHDAY PARTY.
IT'S JUST A NOTEBOOK.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, YUZAN-SAN.
...OH YEAH.
THIS IS MY BIRTHDAY PARTY.
HEH HEH
MURMUR ザワ
ザワ MURMUR

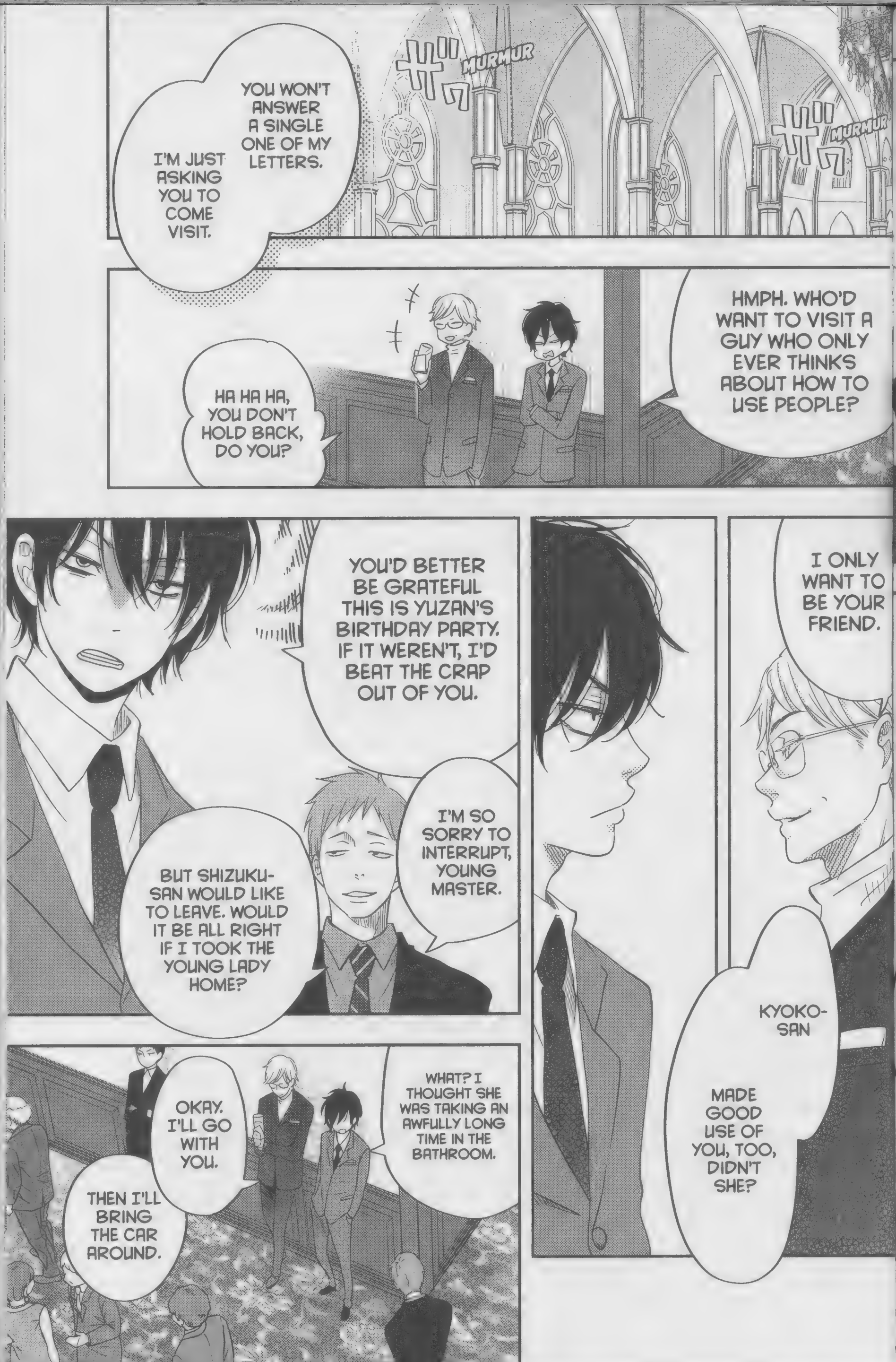

A NOTEBOOK,
SHE SAYS.
THAT'S SO LIKE HER.
UM...
EXCUSE ME...
MO...


YOSHIDA SUPPORT
HONOR YUZAN YOSH
H.

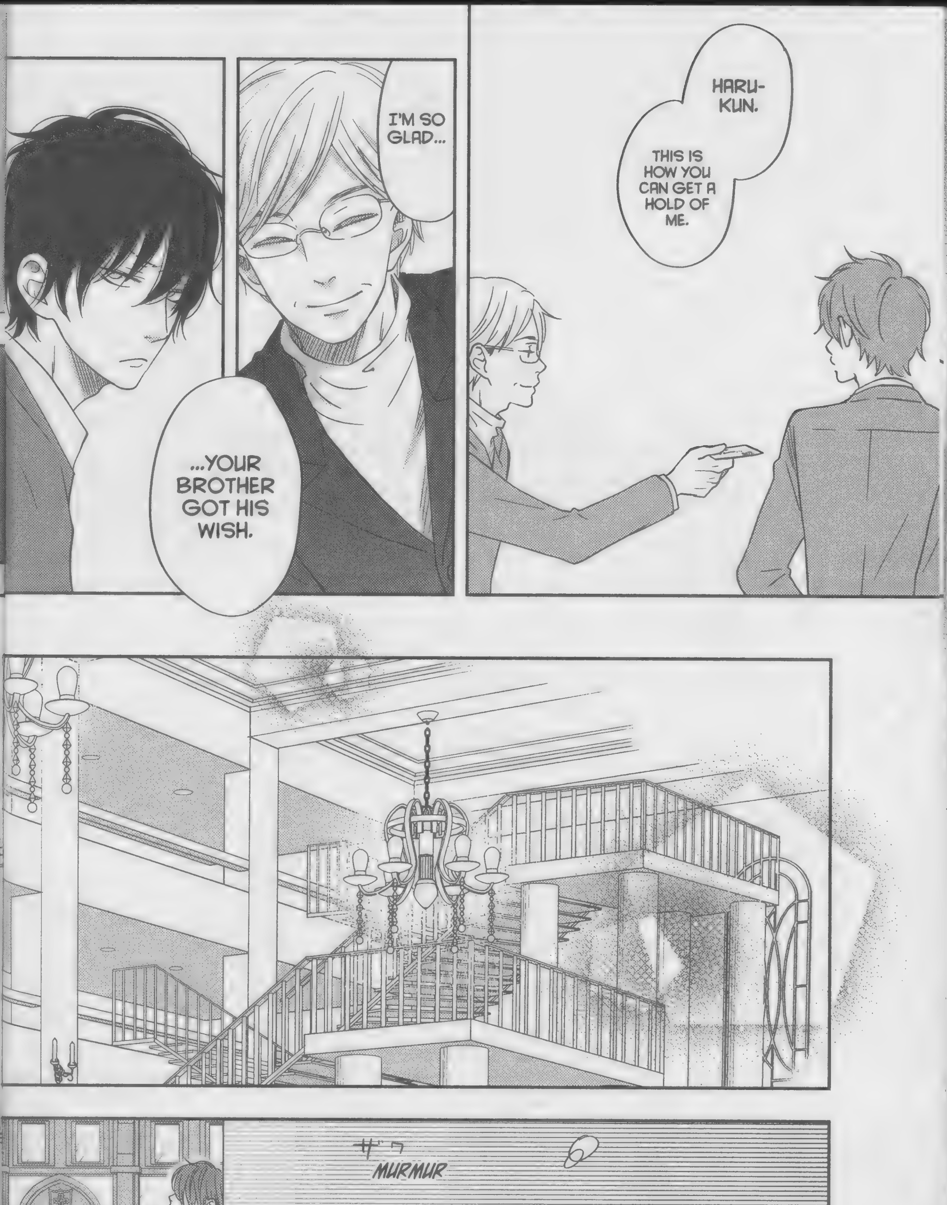

MURMUR
ザワ
MURMUR
ザワ
...
...OH.
IF IT ISN'T HARU-KUN.

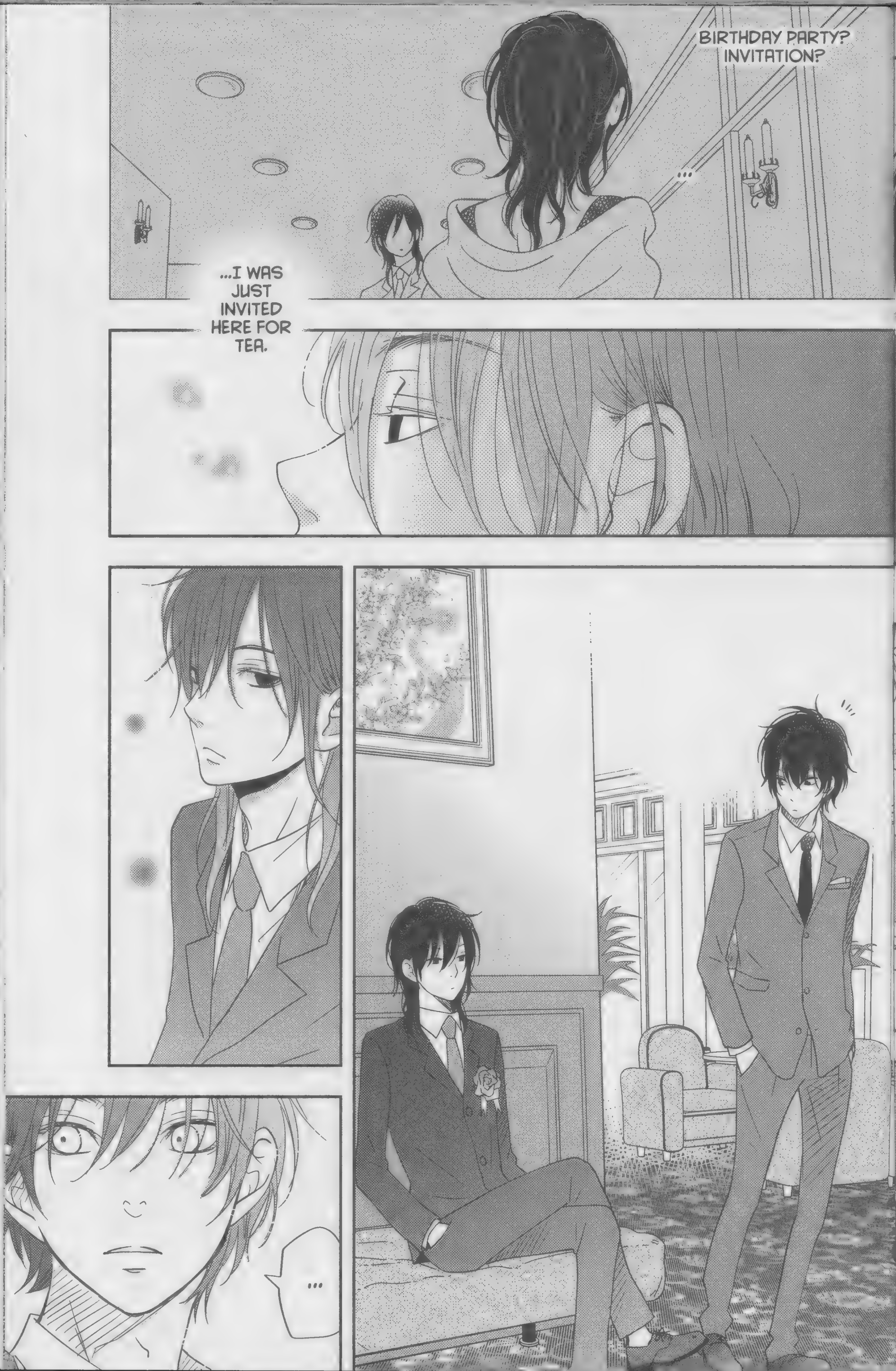
MURMUR
NLY
T TO
OUR
ND.

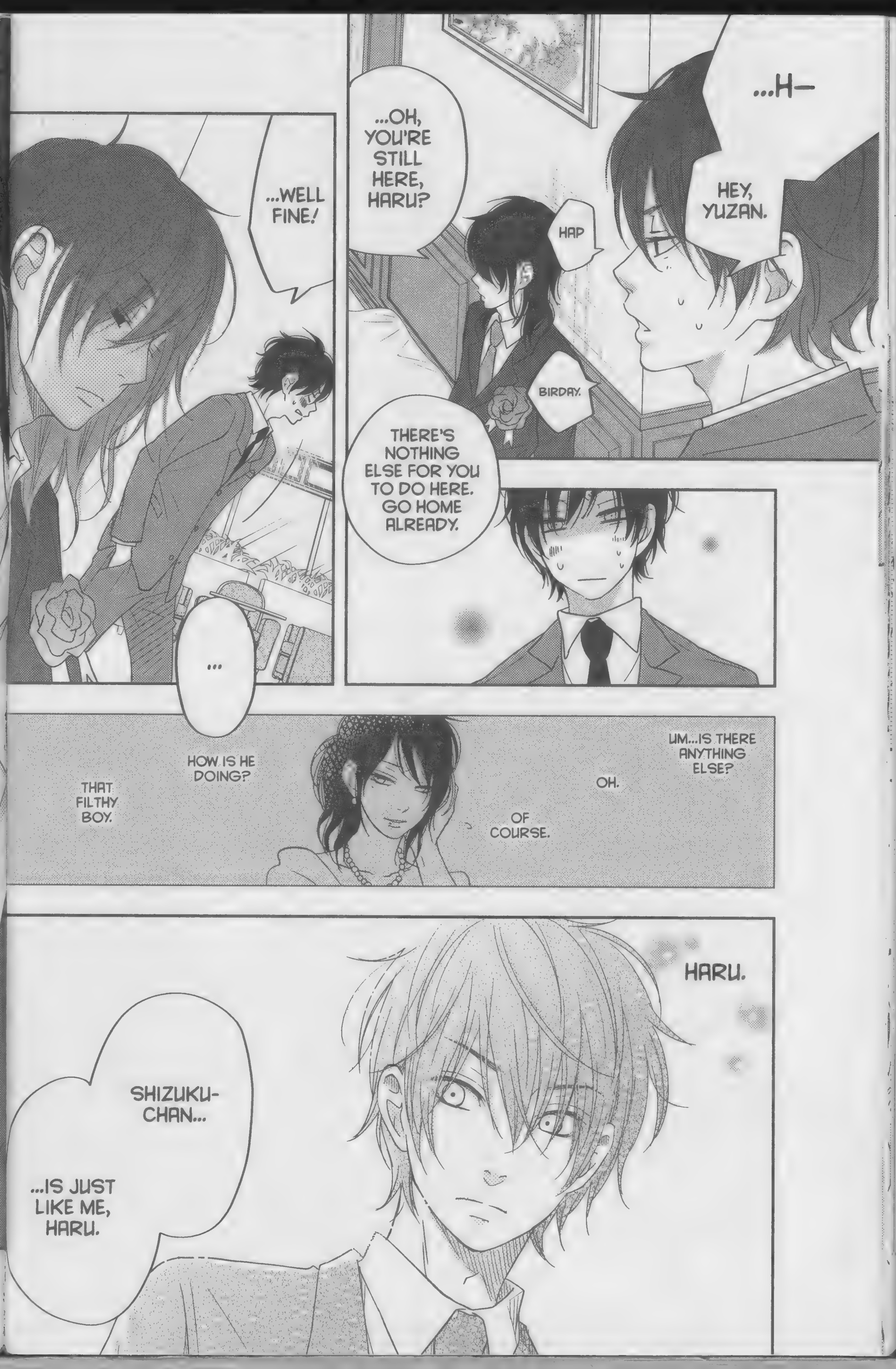

URK.
MURMUR
ザワ
MURMUR
ザワ
WHO'S THAT...?
OH, SHIZUKU-SAN. YOU CERTAINLY TOOK YOUR TIME IN THE LADIES' ROOM.
I WAS JUST GETTING READY TO GO CHECK ON YOU.
UM... WHO IS THAT PERSON THAT HARU IS OBVIOUSLY UNHAPPY TO BE TALKING TO?
YOU MEAN PROFESSOR KIRIYA?
MUNCH MUNCH
もぐ
もぐ
APPARENTLY HE'S AN ACQUAINTANCE OF KYOKO-SAN'S FROM THE UNIVERSITY.
IT WOULD SEEM HE'S TAKEN QUITE A LIKING TO THE YOUNG MASTER.

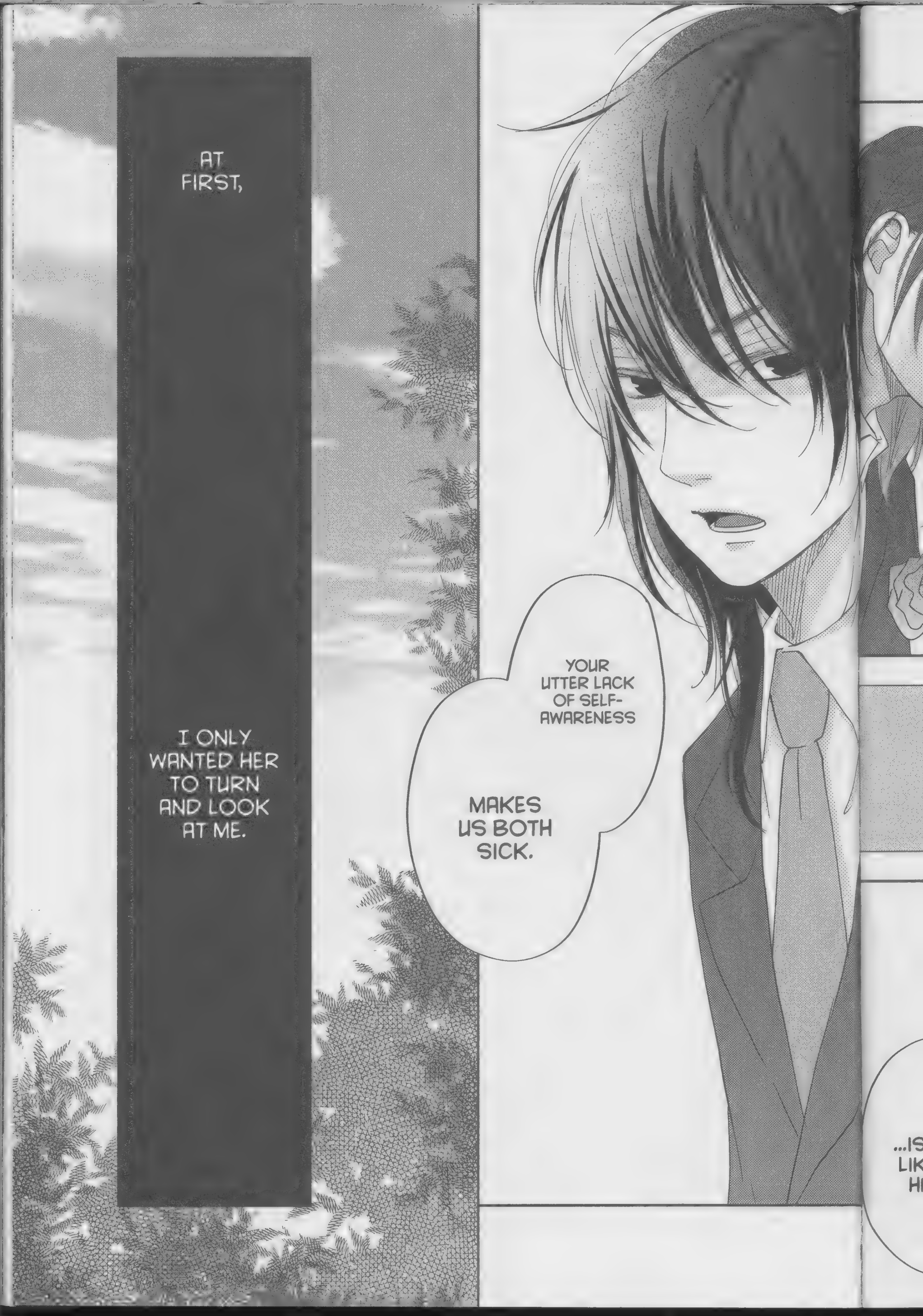

ザワ MURMUR
ザワ MURMUR
YOU WON'T ANSWER A SINGLE ONE OF MY LETTERS.
I'M JUST ASKING YOU TO COME VISIT.
HMPH. WHO'D WANT TO VISIT A GUY WHO ONLY EVER THINKS ABOUT HOW TO USE PEOPLE?
HA HA HA, YOU DON'T HOLD BACK, DO YOU?
I ONLY WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND.
KYOKO-SAN
MADE GOOD USE OF YOU, TOO, DIDN'T SHE?
YOU'D BETTER BE GRATEFUL THIS IS YUZAN'S BIRTHDAY PARTY. IF IT WEREN'T, I'D BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF YOU.
I'M SO SORRY TO INTERRUPT, YOUNG MASTER.
BUT SHIZUKU-SAN WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE. WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT IF I TOOK THE YOUNG LADY HOME?
WHAT? I THOUGHT SHE WAS TAKING AN AWFULLY LONG TIME IN THE BATHROOM.
OKAY. I'LL GO WITH YOU.
THEN I'LL BRING THE CAR AROUND.

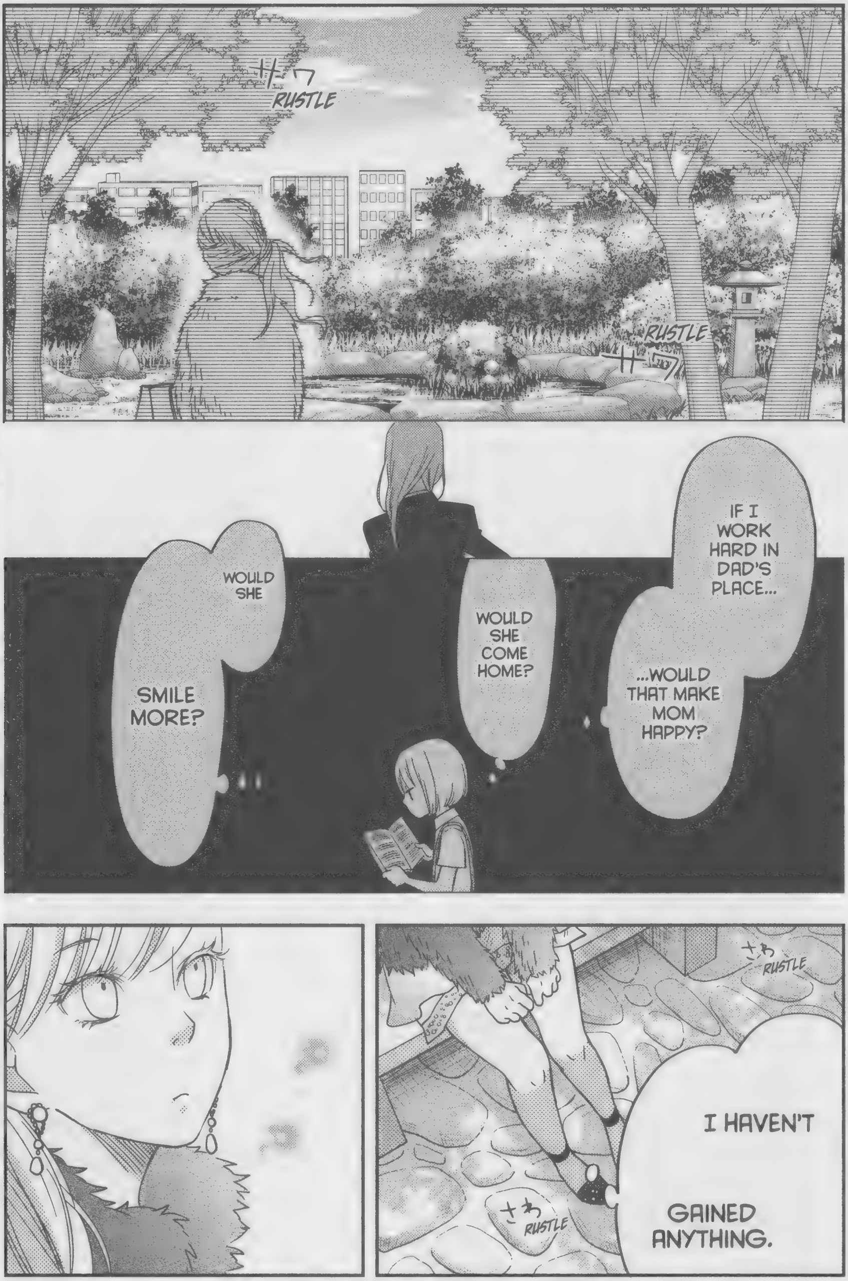
APPA AN AC OF K F UN
IT SI TAK A L TH M

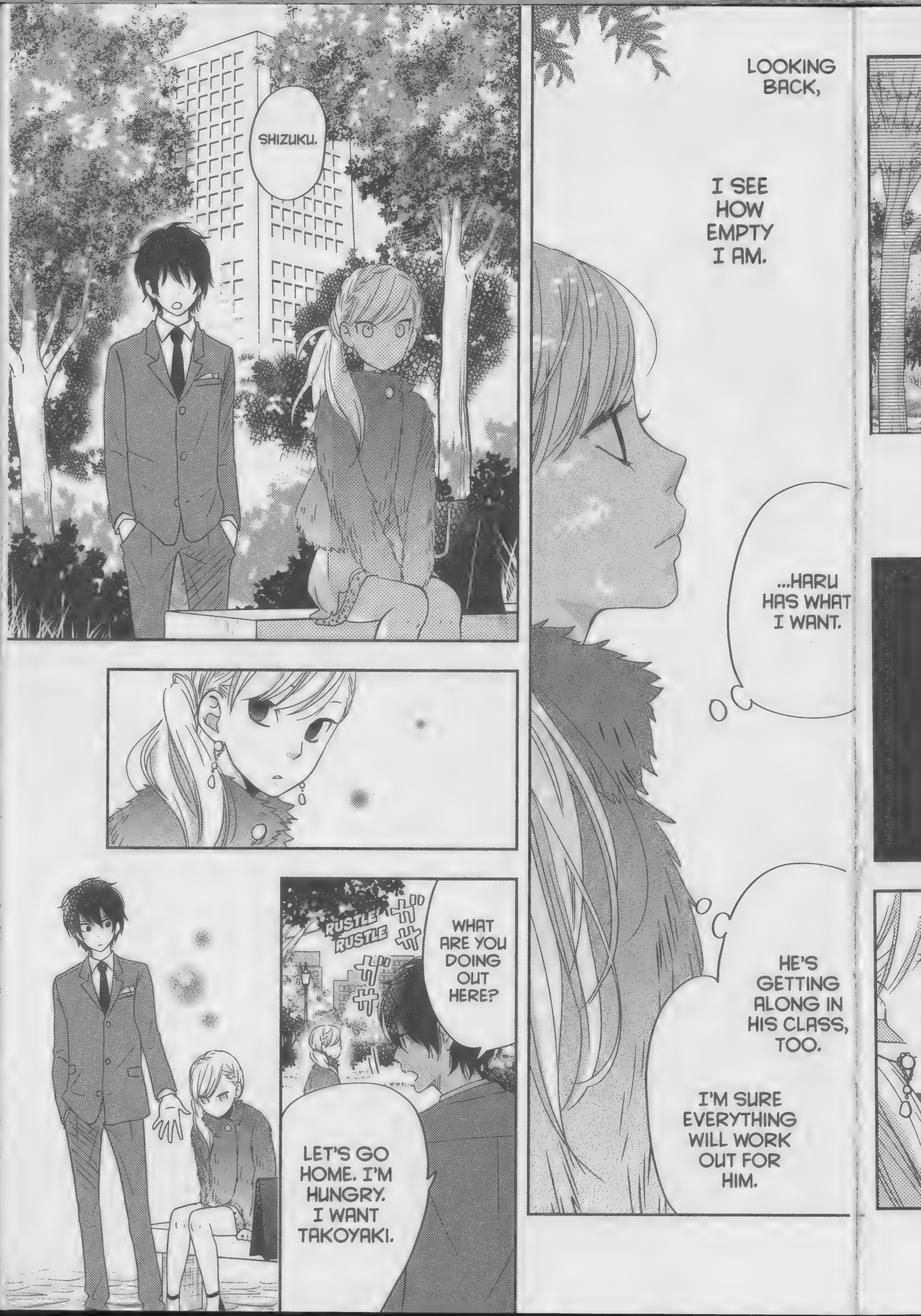

HARU-KUN.
THIS IS HOW YOU CAN GET A HOLD OF ME.
I'M SO GLAD...
...YOUR BROTHER GOT HIS WISH.
ザワ MURMUR
ザワ MURMUR
...WHAT?

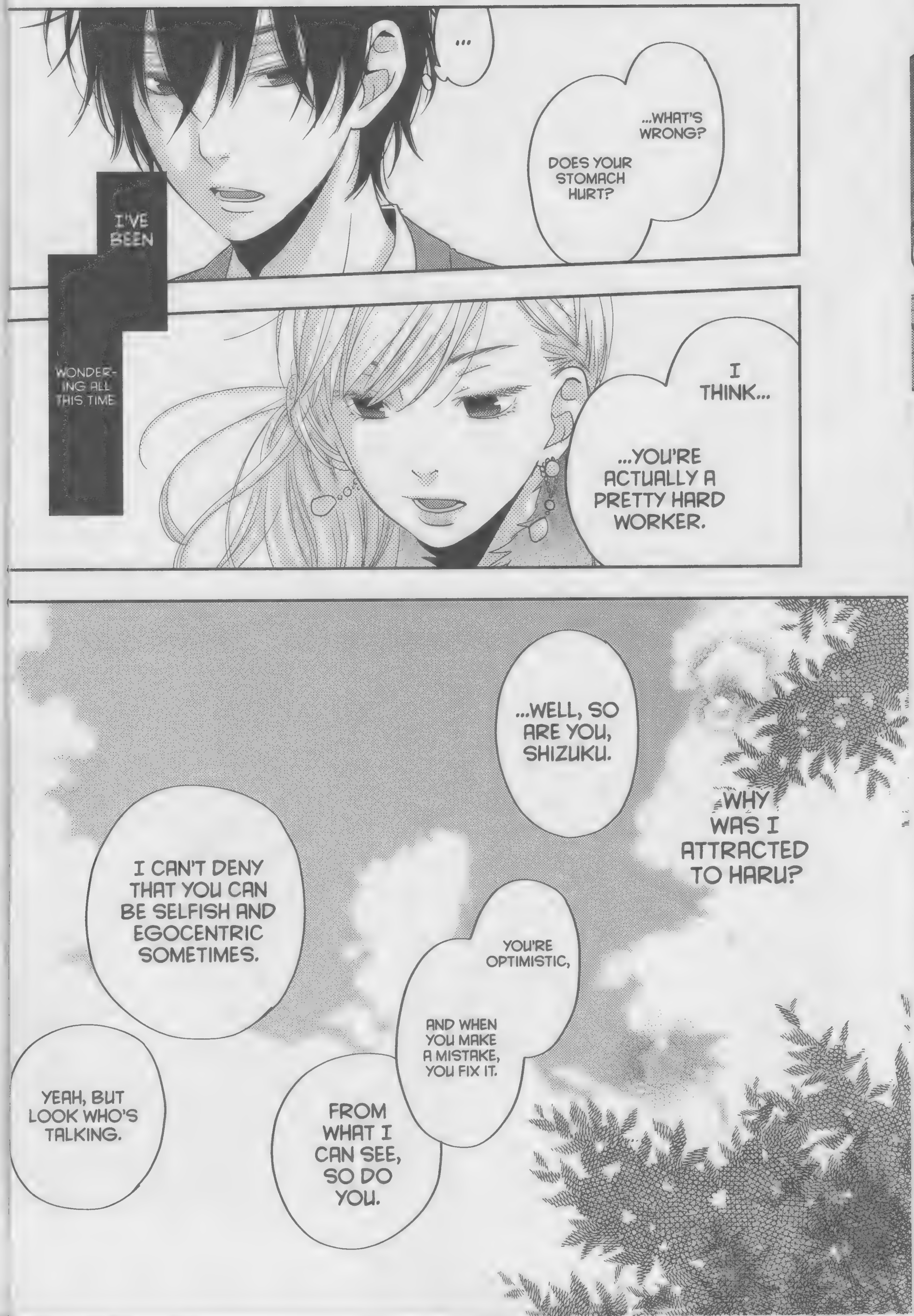

BIRTHDAY PARTY? INVITATION?
...
...I WAS JUST INVITED HERE FOR TEA.
...

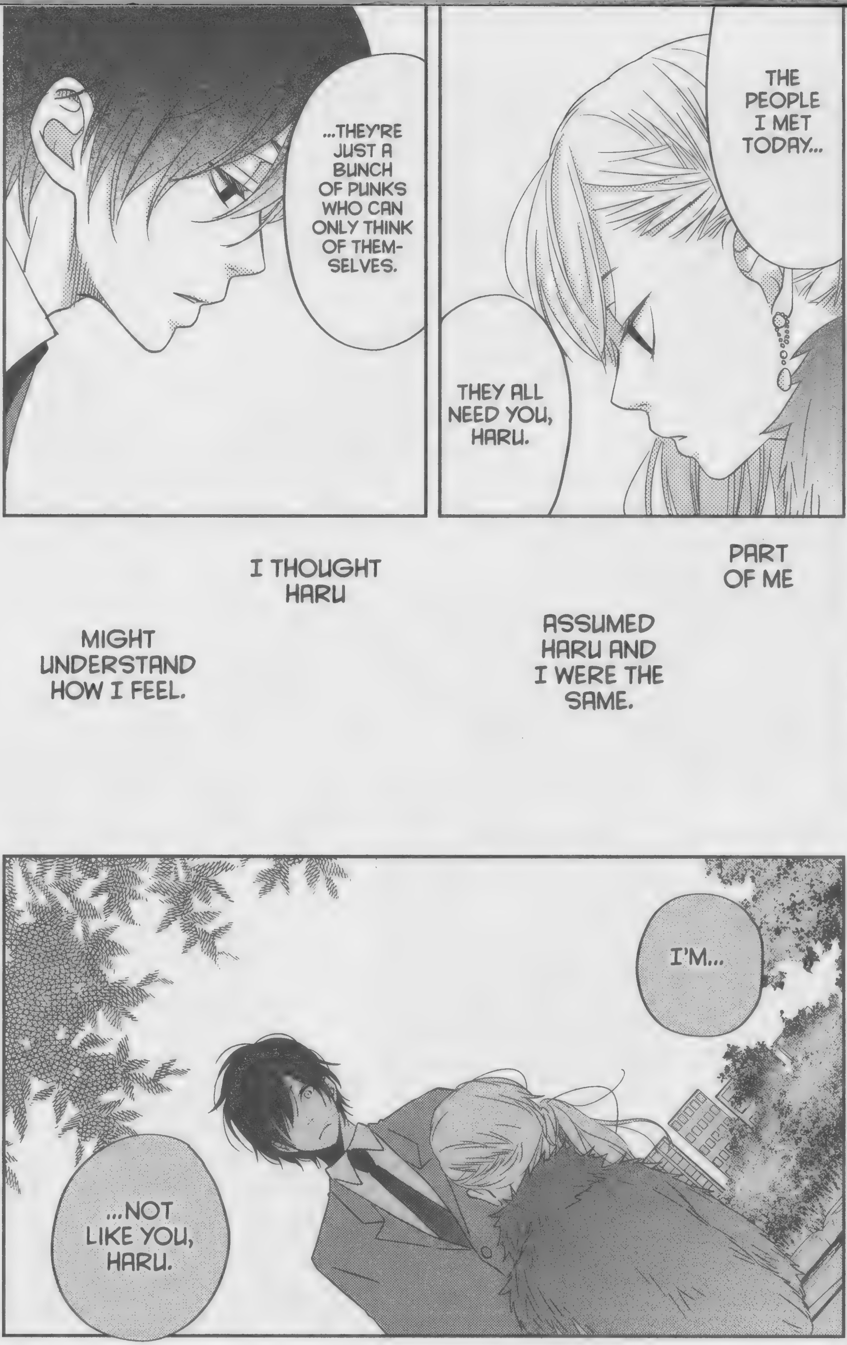

...H—
HEY, YUZAN.
HAP
BIRDAY.
...OH, YOU'RE STILL HERE, HARU?
THERE'S NOTHING ELSE FOR YOU TO DO HERE. GO HOME ALREADY.
...WELL FINE!
...
UM...IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE?
OH.
OF COURSE.
HOW IS HE DOING?
THAT FILTHY BOY.
HARU.
SHIZUKU-CHAN...
...IS JUST LIKE ME, HARU.

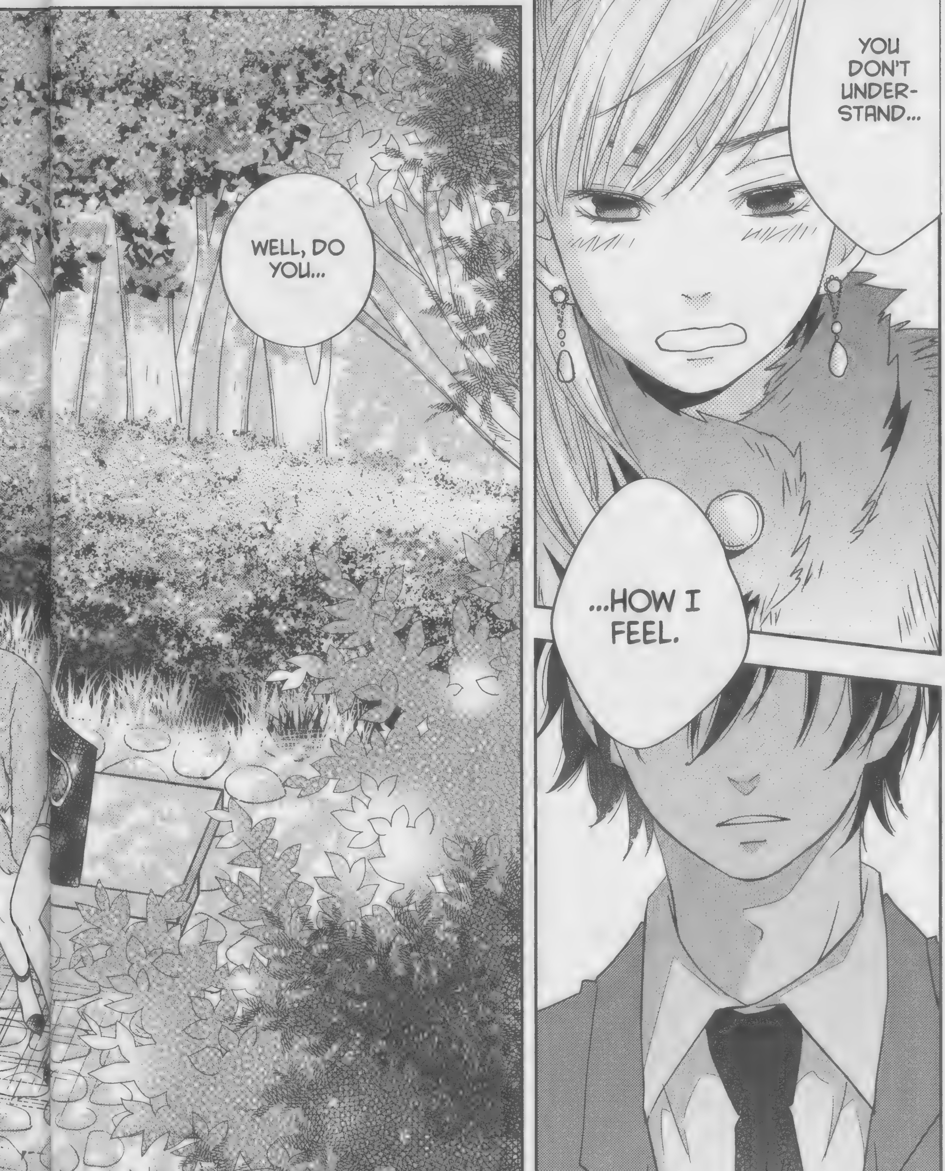

...IS
LIK
HI
YOUR UTTER LACK OF SELF-AWARENESS
MAKES US BOTH SICK.
AT FIRST,
I ONLY WANTED HER TO TURN AND LOOK AT ME.

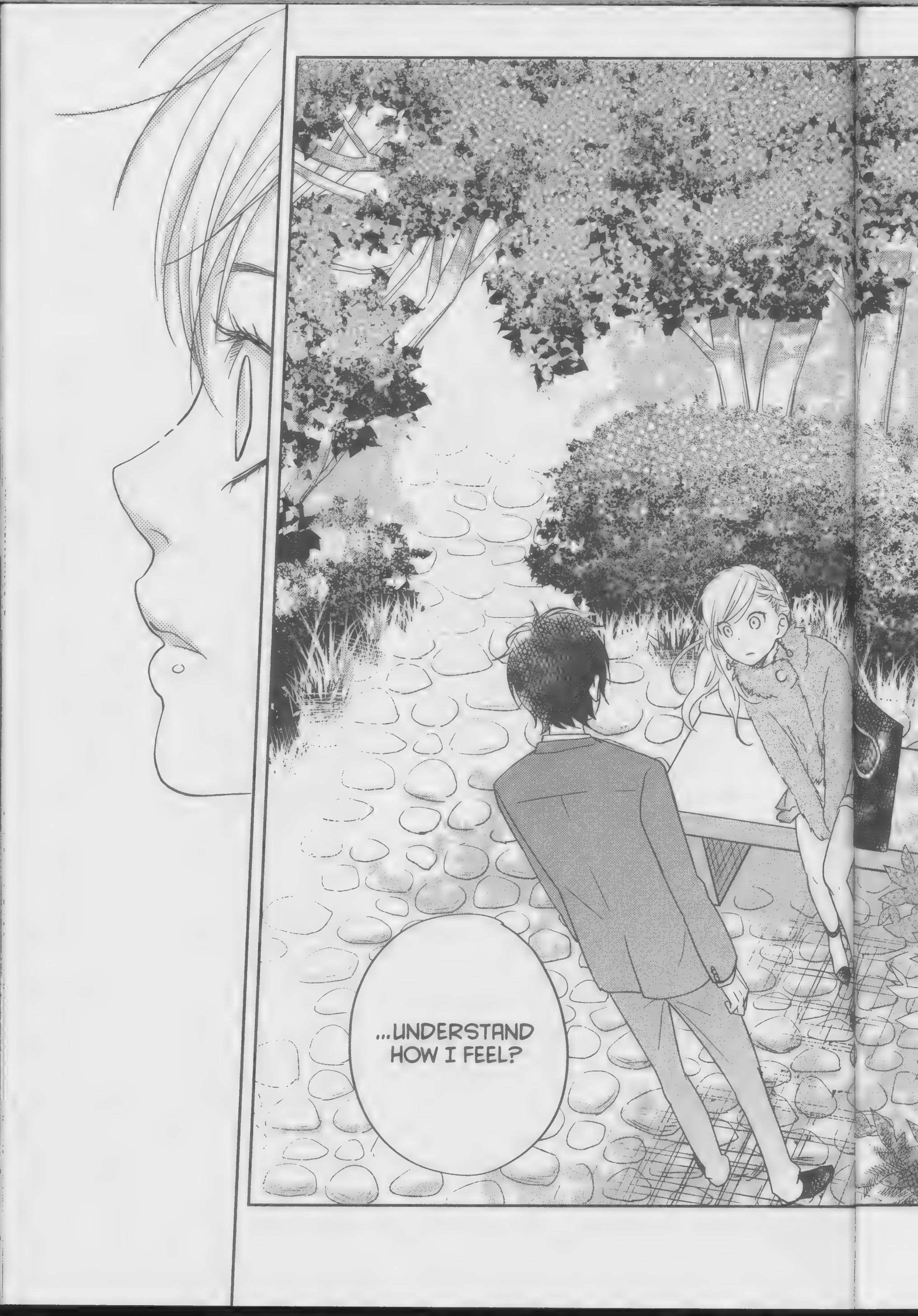

ザワ RUSTLE
ザワ RUSTLE
IF I WORK HARD IN DAD'S PLACE...
...WOULD THAT MAKE MOM HAPPY?
WOULD SHE COME HOME?
WOULD SHE SMILE MORE?
さわ RUSTLE
I HAVEN'T
GAINED ANYTHING.
さわ RUSTLE

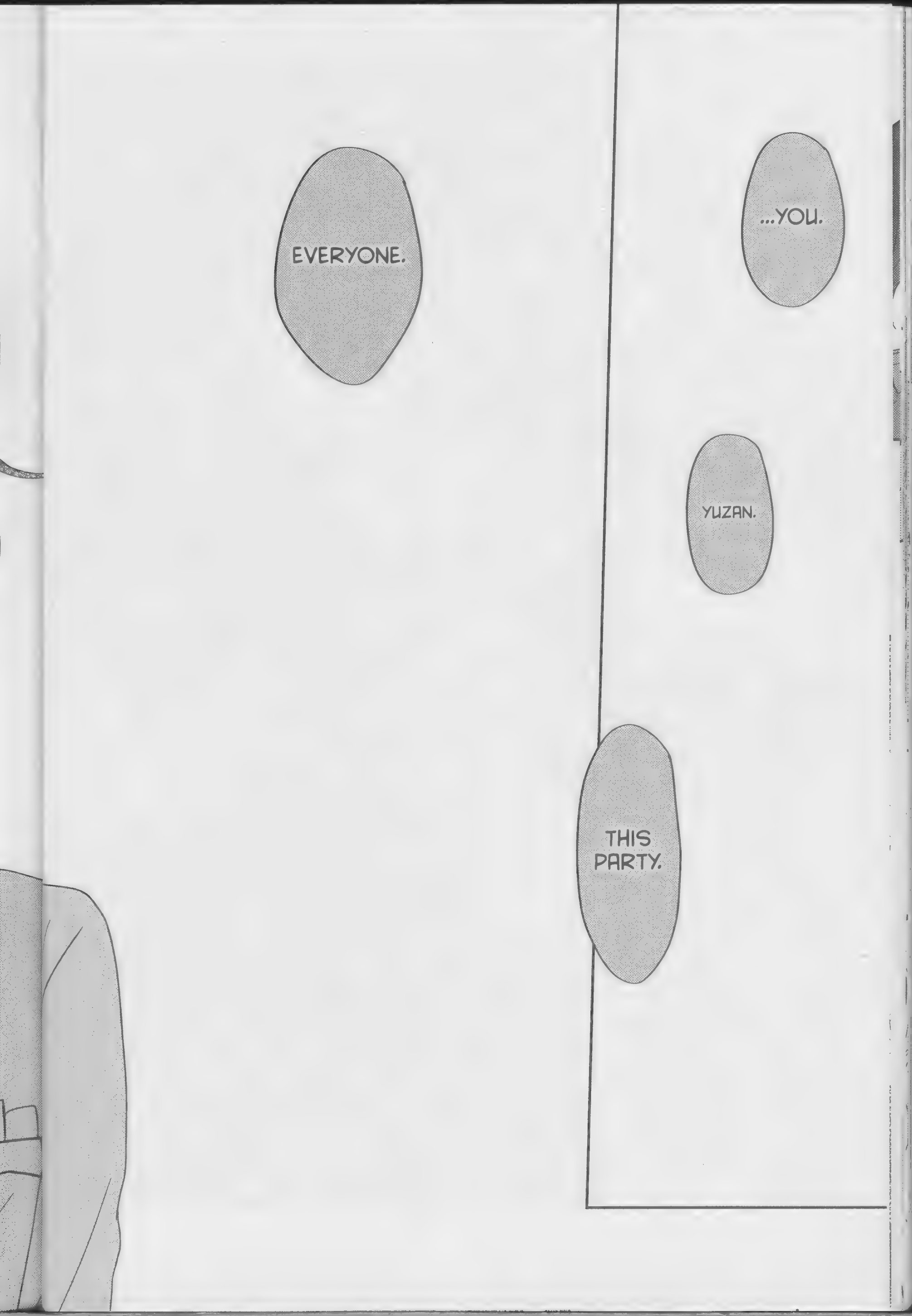

LOOKING BACK,
I SEE HOW EMPTY I AM.
...HARU HAS WHAT I WANT.
HE'S GETTING ALONG IN HIS CLASS, TOO.
I'M SURE EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT FOR HIM.
SHIZUKU.
RUSTLE RUSTLE
ガサガサ
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
LET'S GO HOME. I'M HUNGRY. I WANT TAKOYAKI.

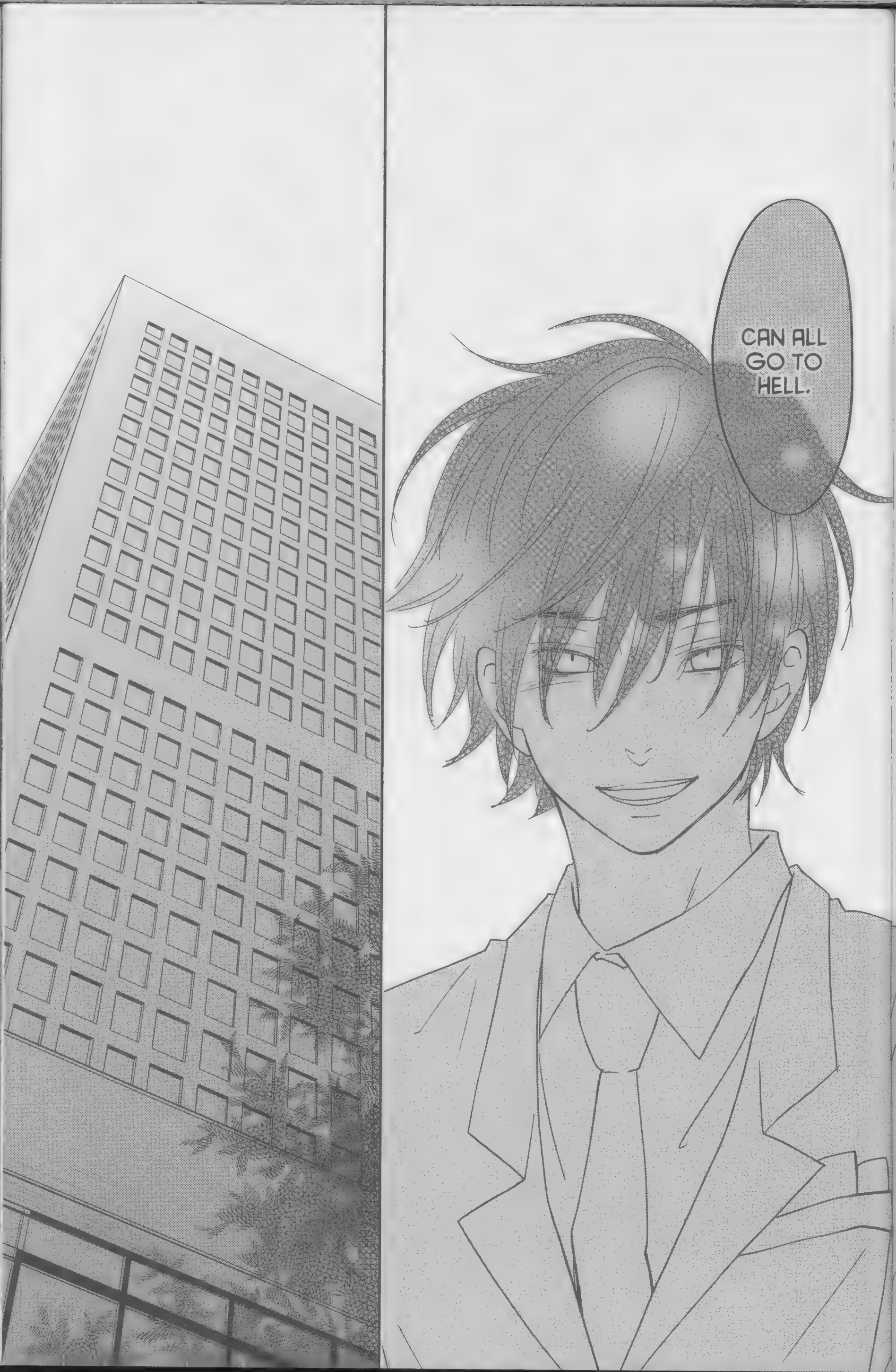

...
...WHAT'S WRONG?
DOES YOUR STOMACH HURT?
I'VE BEEN
WONDERING ALL THIS TIME
I THINK...
...YOU'RE ACTUALLY A PRETTY HARD WORKER.
WHY WAS I ATTRACTED TO HARU?
...WELL, SO ARE YOU, SHIZUKU.
YOU'RE OPTIMISTIC,
AND WHEN YOU MAKE A MISTAKE, YOU FIX IT.
I CAN'T DENY THAT YOU CAN BE SELFISH AND EGOCENTRIC SOMETIMES.
FROM WHAT I CAN SEE, SO DO YOU.
YEAH, BUT LOOK WHO'S TALKING.


THE PEOPLE I MET TODAY...
THEY ALL NEED YOU, HARU.
...THEY'RE JUST A BUNCH OF PUNKS WHO CAN ONLY THINK OF THEMSELVES.
PART OF ME
ASSUMED HARU AND I WERE THE SAME.
I THOUGHT HARU
MIGHT UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL.
I'M...
...NOT LIKE YOU, HARU.

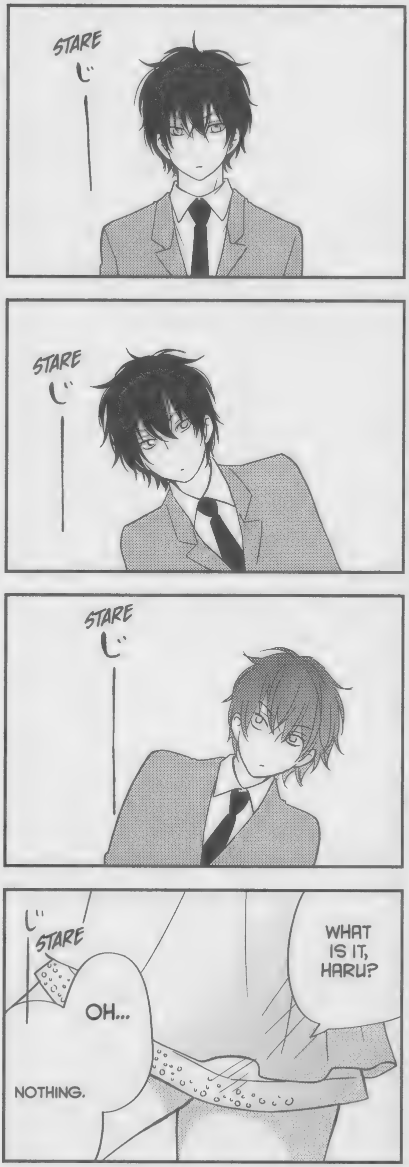

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...
...HOW I FEEL.
WELL, DO YOU...


...UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL?


...YOU.
YUZAN.
THIS PARTY.
EVERYONE.


CAN ALL GO TO HELL.

BOOTY


STARE
じーー
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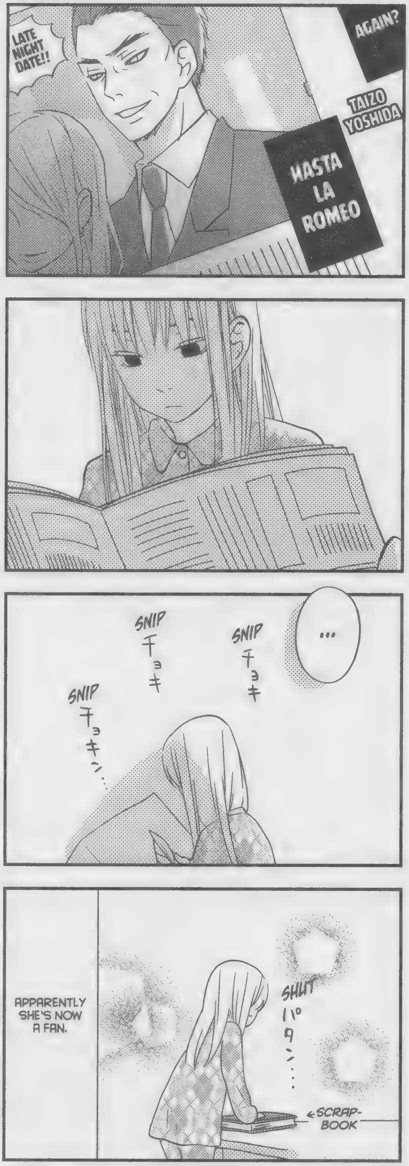
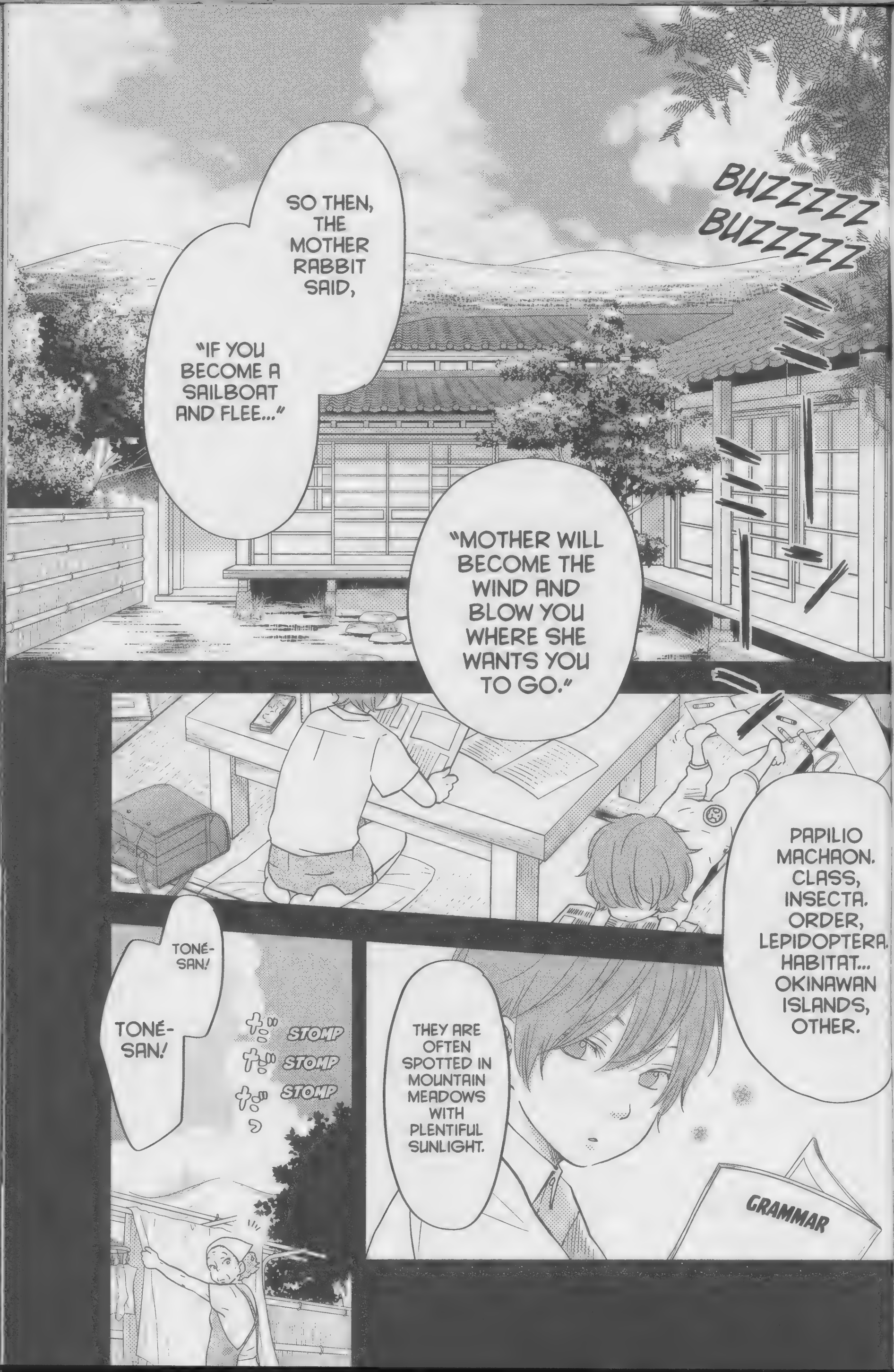
じ
STARE
WHAT IS IT, HARU?
OH...
NOTHING.

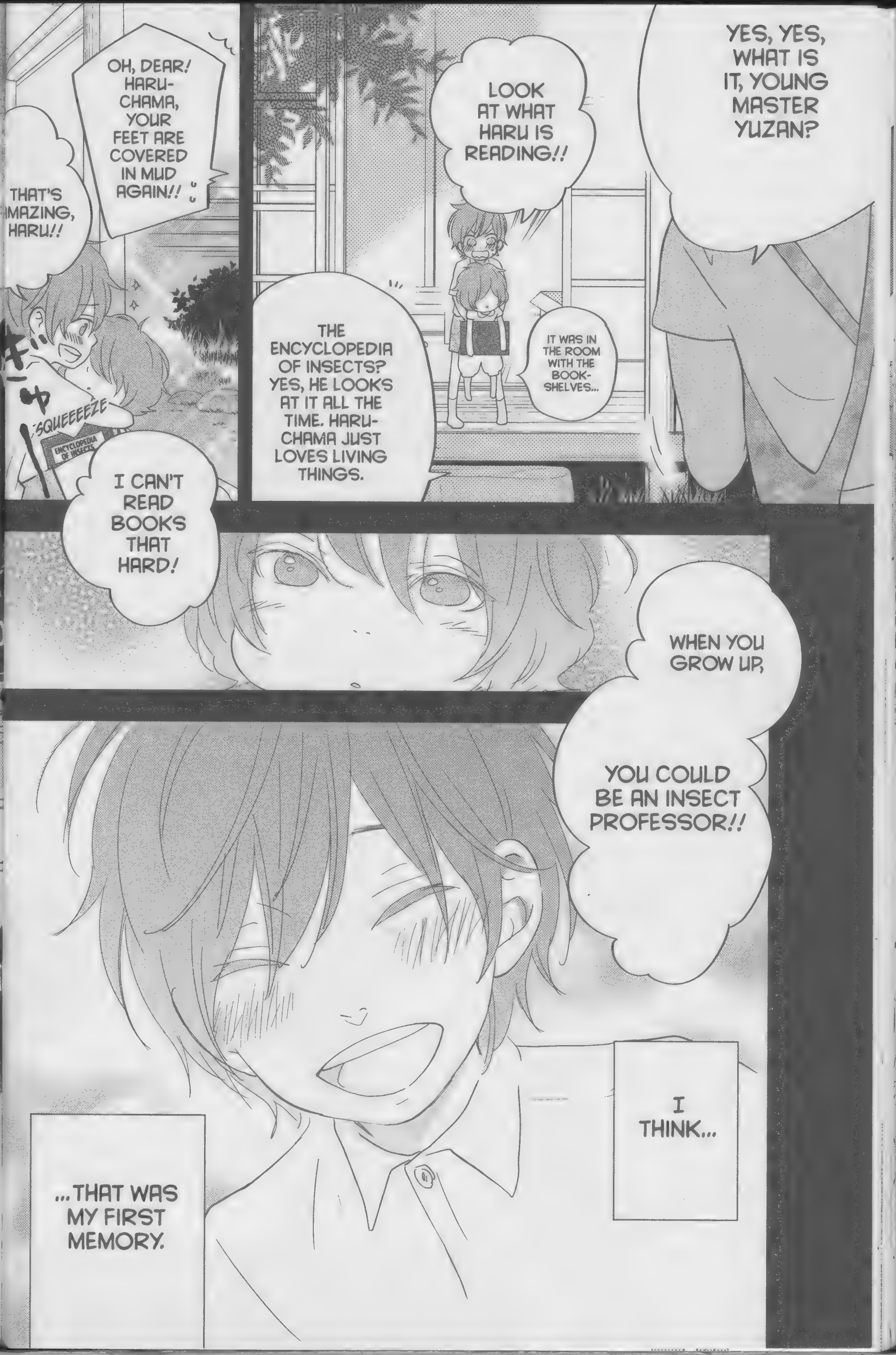
AFTER THE PARTY

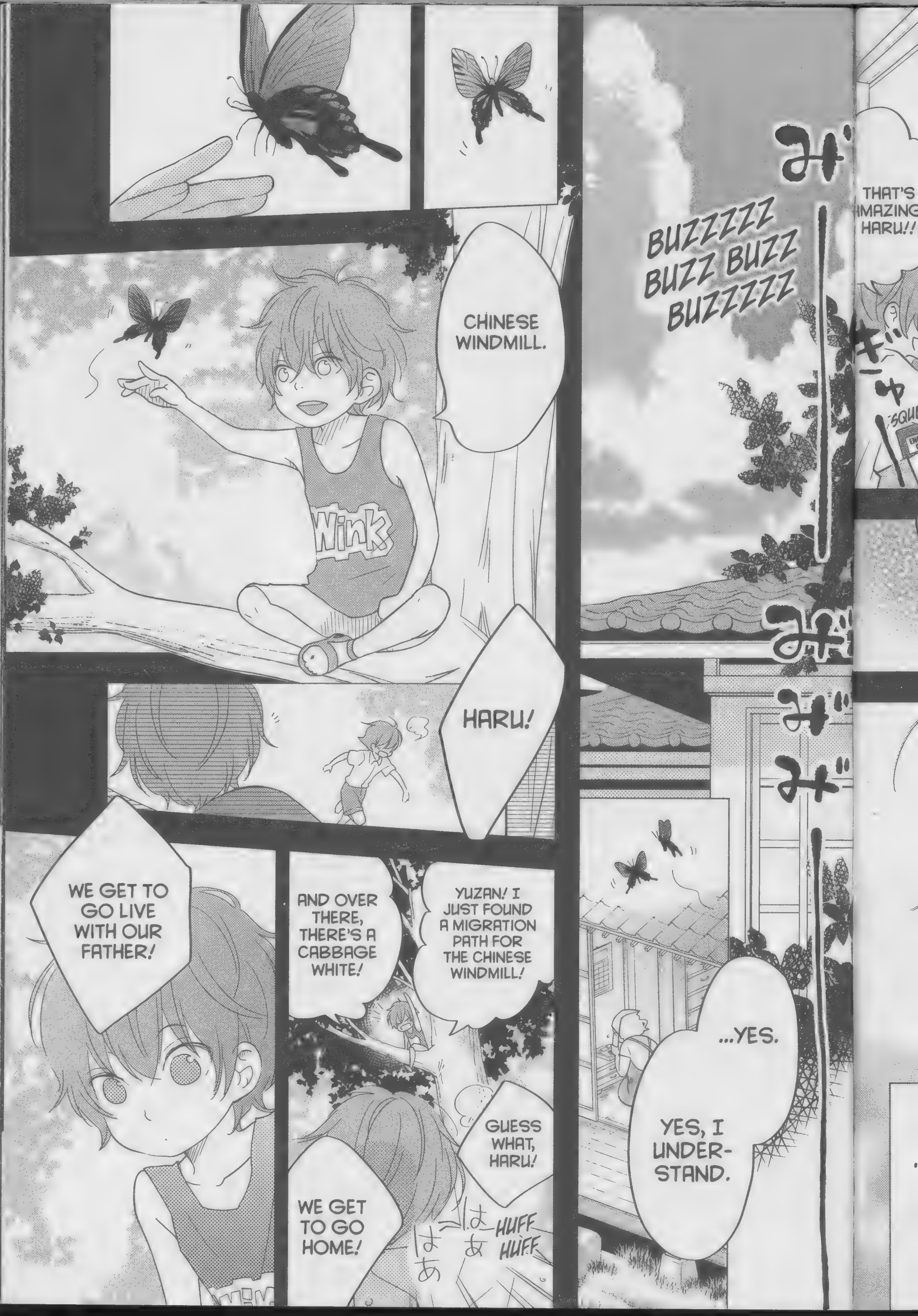

AGAIN?
LATE NIGHT DATE!!
TAIZO YOSHIDA
HASTA LA ROMEO
...
SNIP
チョキ
SNIP
チョキ
SNIP
チョキン...
SHUT
パタン...
SCRAP-BOOK
APPARENTLY SHE'S NOW A FAN.

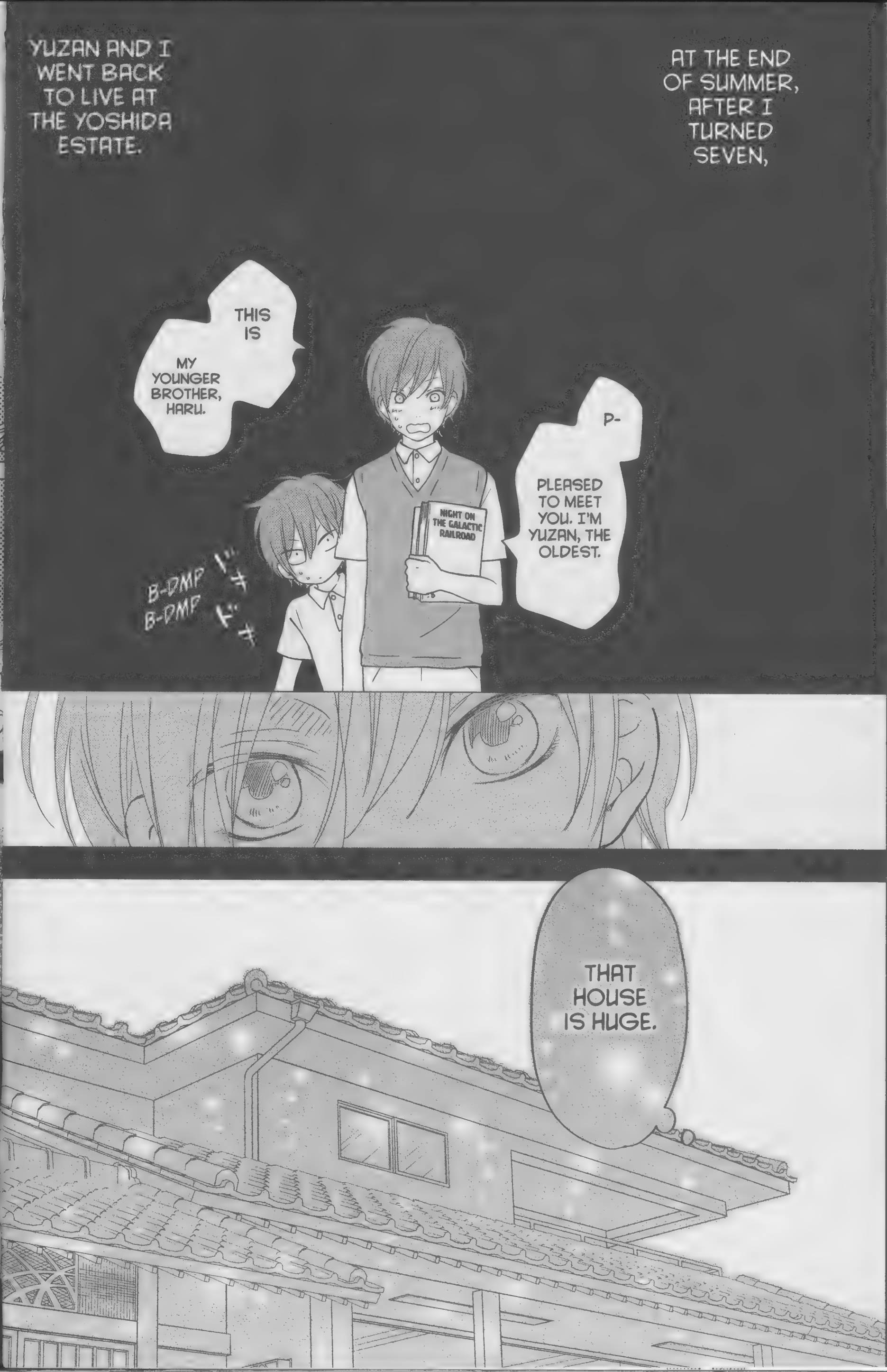
HAPPY DOUGNUT

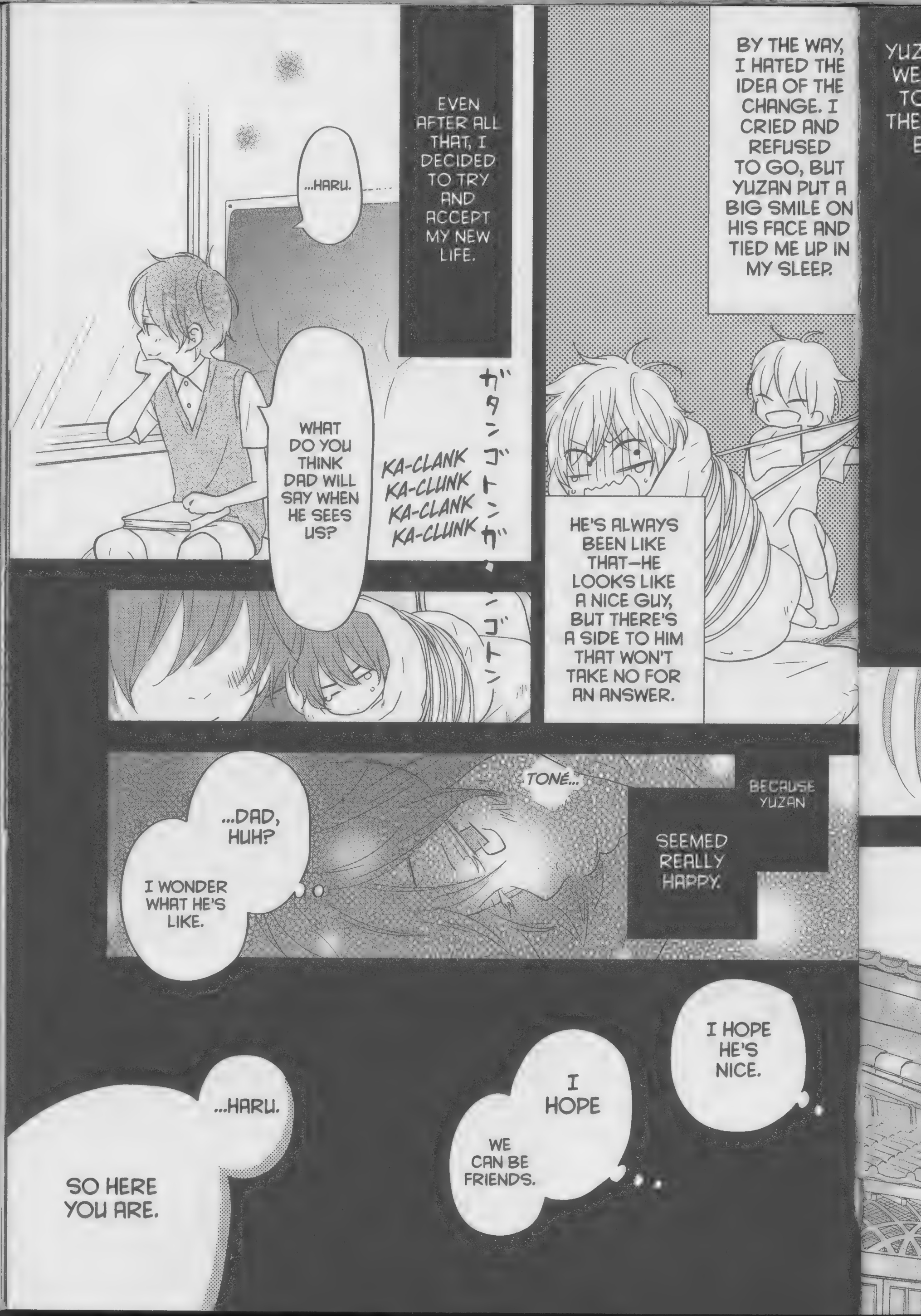
CHAPTER 40: THE WORLD I SAW ONE DAY

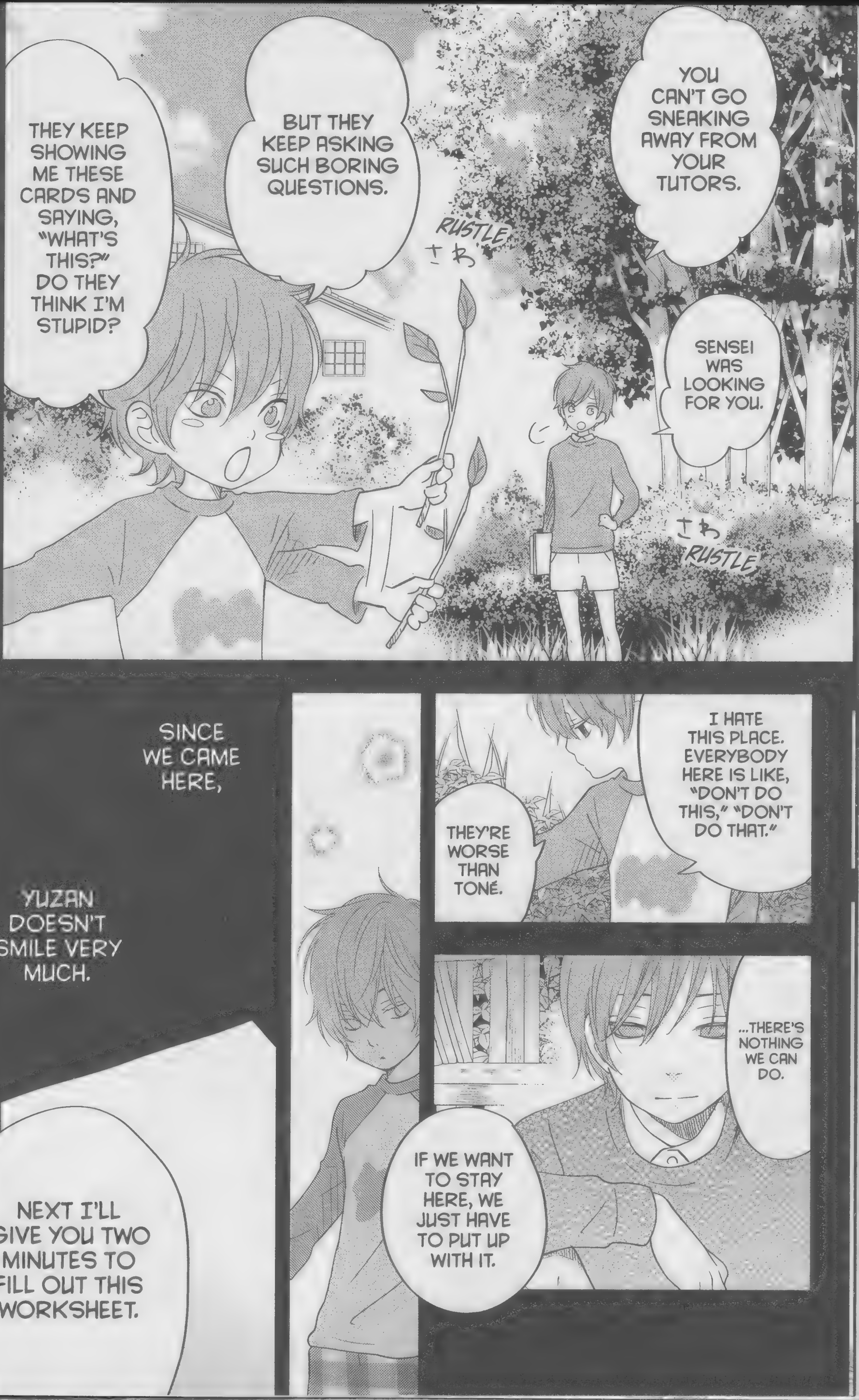

BUZZZZZZ BUZZZZZZ
SO THEN, THE MOTHER RABBIT SAID,
"IF YOU BECOME A SAILBOAT AND FLEE..."
"MOTHER WILL BECOME THE WIND AND BLOW YOU WHERE SHE WANTS YOU TO GO."
PAPILIO MACHAON. CLASS, INSECTA. ORDER, LEPIDOPTERA. HABITAT... OKINAWAN ISLANDS, OTHER.
THEY ARE OFTEN SPOTTED IN MOUNTAIN MEADOWS WITH PLENTIFUL SUNLIGHT.
GRAMMAR
TONÉ-SAN!
TONÉ-SAN!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

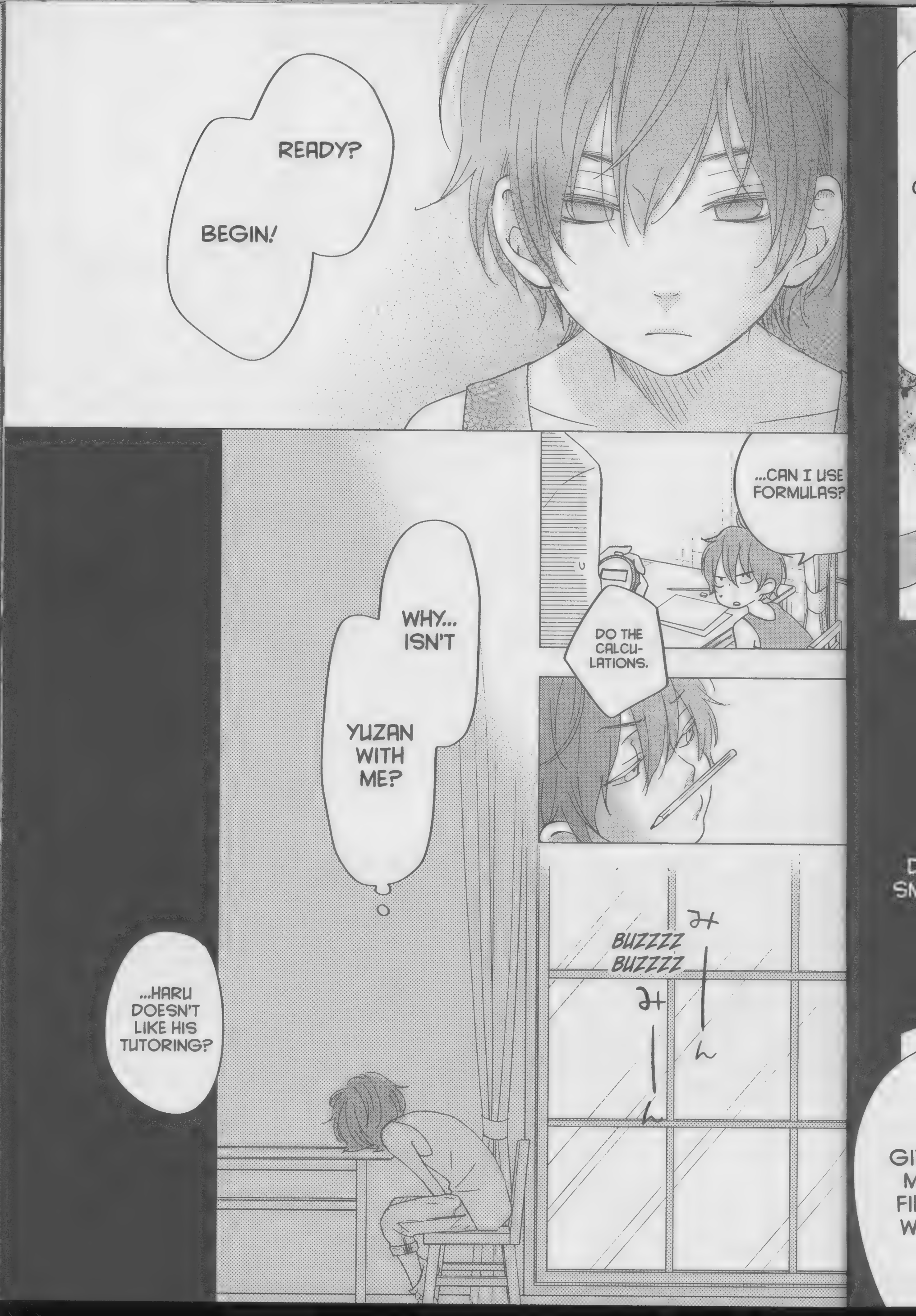

YES, YES, WHAT IS IT, YOUNG MASTER YUZAN?
LOOK AT WHAT HARU IS READING!!
IT WAS IN THE ROOM WITH THE BOOK-SHELVES...
THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF INSECTS? YES, HE LOOKS AT IT ALL THE TIME. HARU-CHAMA JUST LOVES LIVING THINGS.
OH, DEAR! HARU-CHAMA, YOUR FEET ARE COVERED IN MUD AGAIN!!
THAT'S AMAZING, HARU!!
SQUEEEEEZE
ENCYCLOPEDIA OF INSECTS
I CAN'T READ BOOKS THAT HARD!
WHEN YOU GROW UP,
YOU COULD BE AN INSECT PROFESSOR!!
I THINK...
...THAT WAS MY FIRST MEMORY.

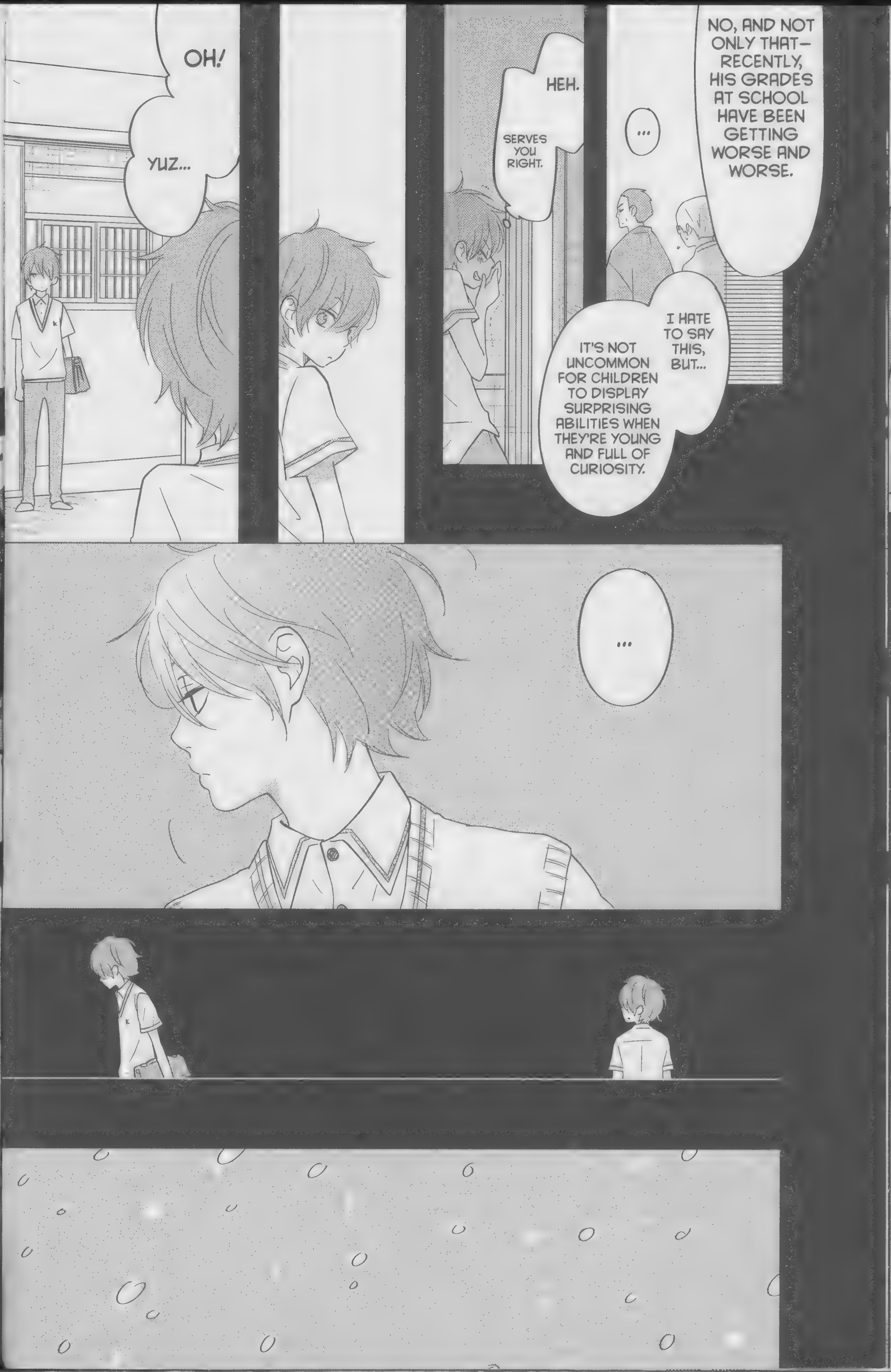

THAT'S
MAZING
HARU!!
みーーー
BUZZZZZ BUZZ BUZZ BUZZZZZ
み゛み゛み゛み゛ーー
...YES.
YES, I UNDERSTAND.
CHINESE WINDMILL.
HARU!
GUESS WHAT, HARU!
WE GET TO GO HOME!
はぁ はぁ HUFF HUFF
YUZAN! I JUST FOUND A MIGRATION PATH FOR THE CHINESE WINDMILL!
AND OVER THERE, THERE'S A CABBAGE WHITE!
WE GET TO GO LIVE WITH OUR FATHER!

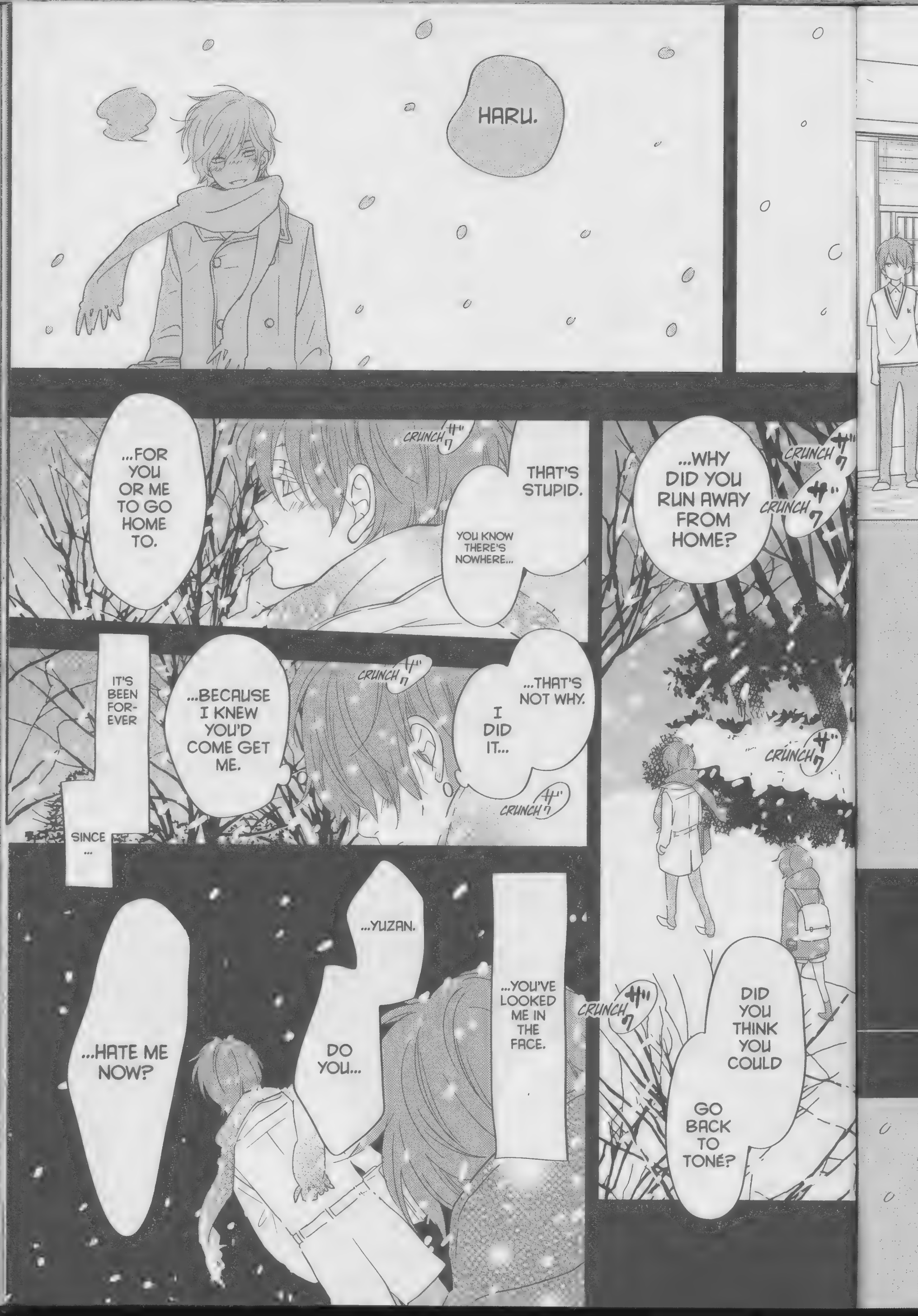

AT THE END OF SUMMER, AFTER I TURNED SEVEN,
YUZAN AND I WENT BACK TO LIVE AT THE YOSHIDA ESTATE.
P-
PLEASED TO MEET YOU. I'M YUZAN, THE OLDEST.
THIS IS MY YOUNGER BROTHER, HARU.
NIGHT ON THE GALACTIC RAILROAD
ドキドキ
B-DMP B-DMP
THAT HOUSE IS HUGE.

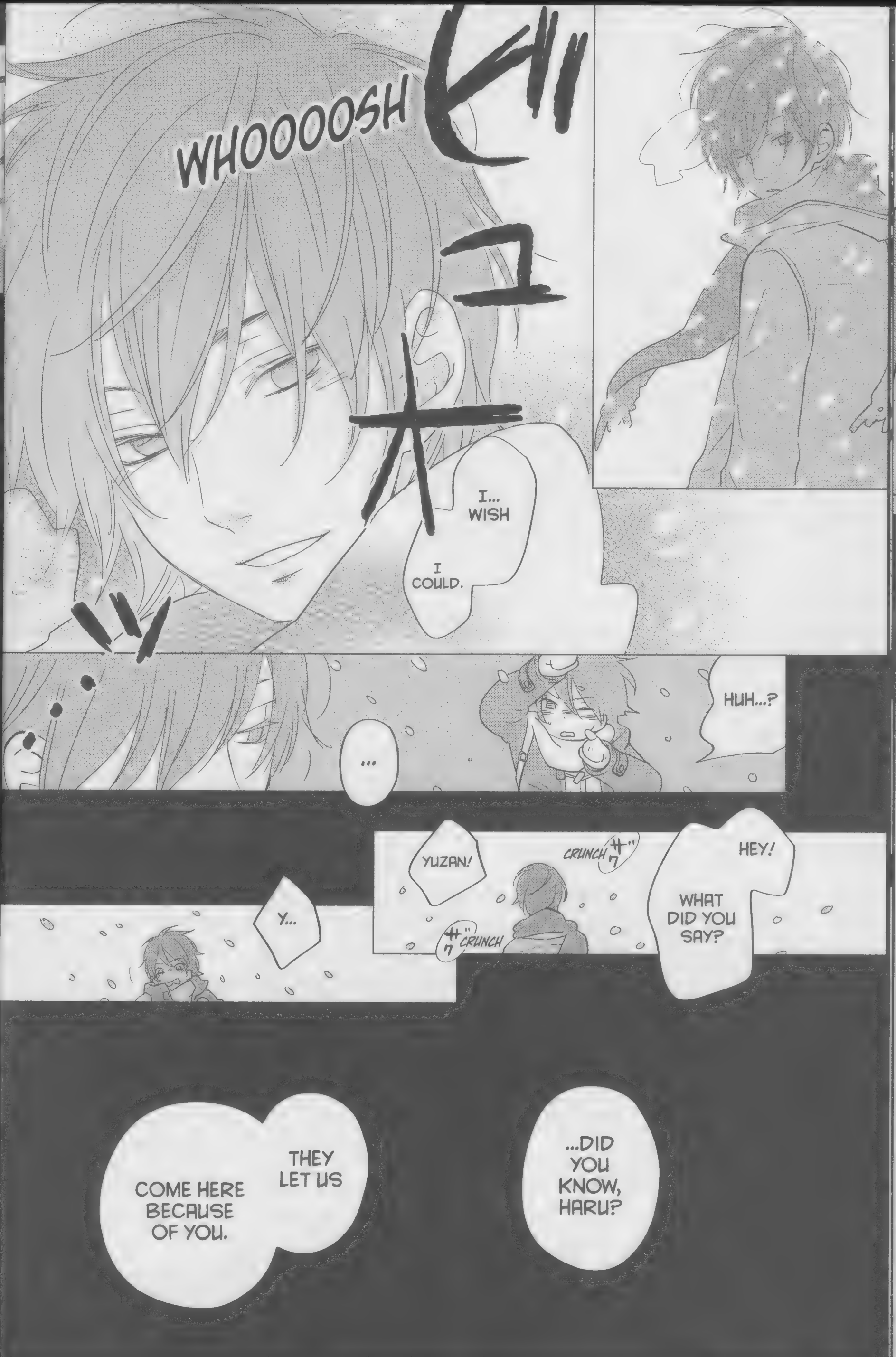

YUZ
WE
TO
THE
E
BY THE WAY, I HATED THE IDEA OF THE CHANGE. I CRIED AND REFUSED TO GO, BUT YUZAN PUT A BIG SMILE ON HIS FACE AND TIED ME UP IN MY SLEEP.
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT—HE LOOKS LIKE A NICE GUY, BUT THERE'S A SIDE TO HIM THAT WON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER.
EVEN AFTER ALL THAT, I DECIDED TO TRY AND ACCEPT MY NEW LIFE.
...HARU.
ガタンゴトン ガタンゴトン
KA-CLANK KA-CLUNK KA-CLANK KA-CLUNK
WHAT DO YOU THINK DAD WILL SAY WHEN HE SEES US?
TONE...
BECAUSE YUZAN
SEEMED REALLY HAPPY.
...DAD, HUH?
I WONDER WHAT HE'S LIKE.
I HOPE HE'S NICE.
I HOPE WE CAN BE FRIENDS.
...HARU.
SO HERE YOU ARE.

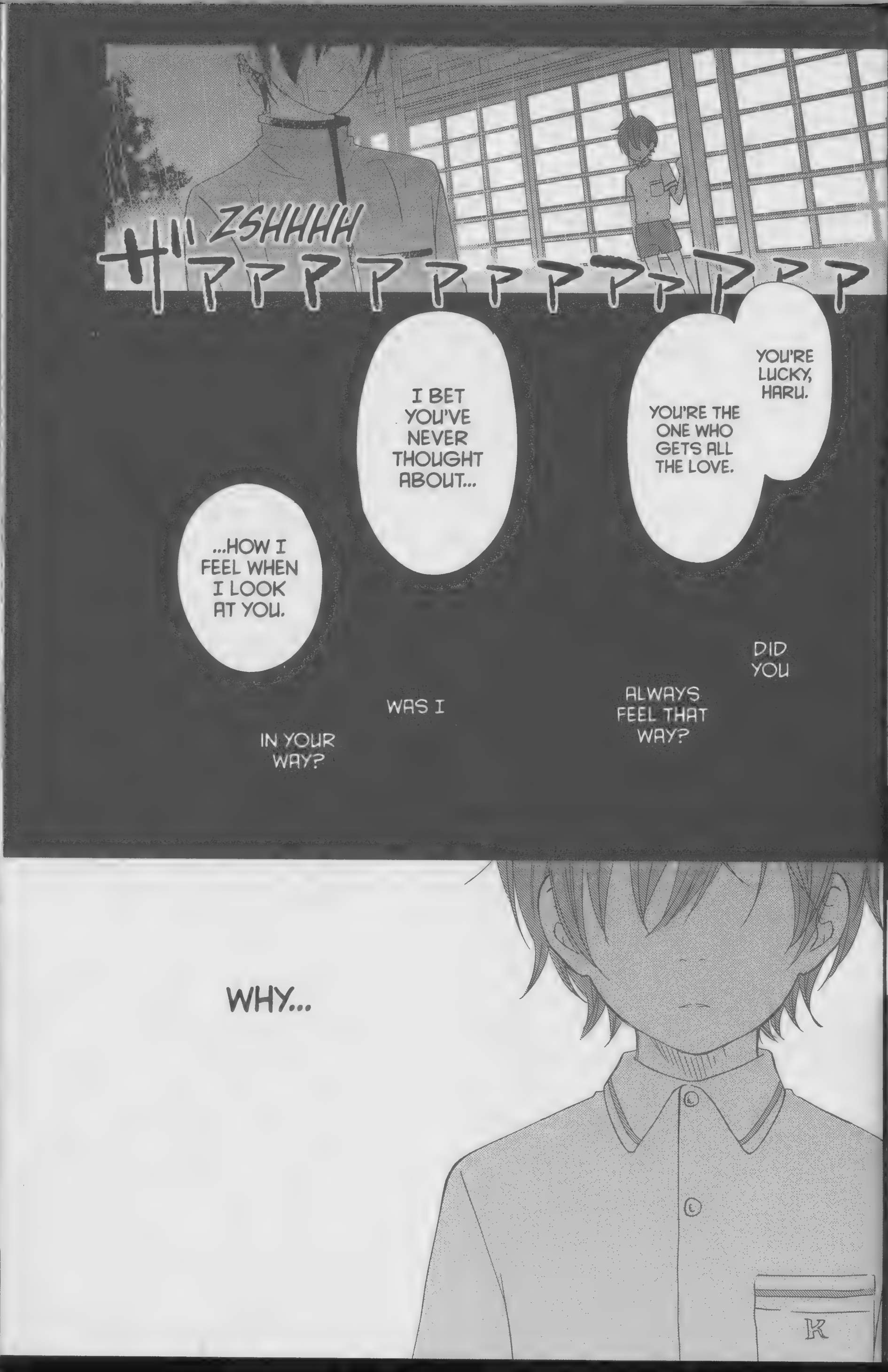

YOU CAN'T GO SNEAKING AWAY FROM YOUR TUTORS.
SENSEI WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.
さわ RUSTLE
BUT THEY KEEP ASKING SUCH BORING QUESTIONS.
RUSTLE さわ
THEY KEEP SHOWING ME THESE CARDS AND SAYING, "WHAT'S THIS?" DO THEY THINK I'M STUPID?
I HATE THIS PLACE. EVERYBODY HERE IS LIKE, "DON'T DO THIS," "DON'T DO THAT."
THEY'RE WORSE THAN TONÉ.
...THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.
IF WE WANT TO STAY HERE, WE JUST HAVE TO PUT UP WITH IT.
SINCE WE CAME HERE,
YUZAN DOESN'T SMILE VERY MUCH.
NEXT I'LL GIVE YOU TWO MINUTES TO FILL OUT THIS WORKSHEET.

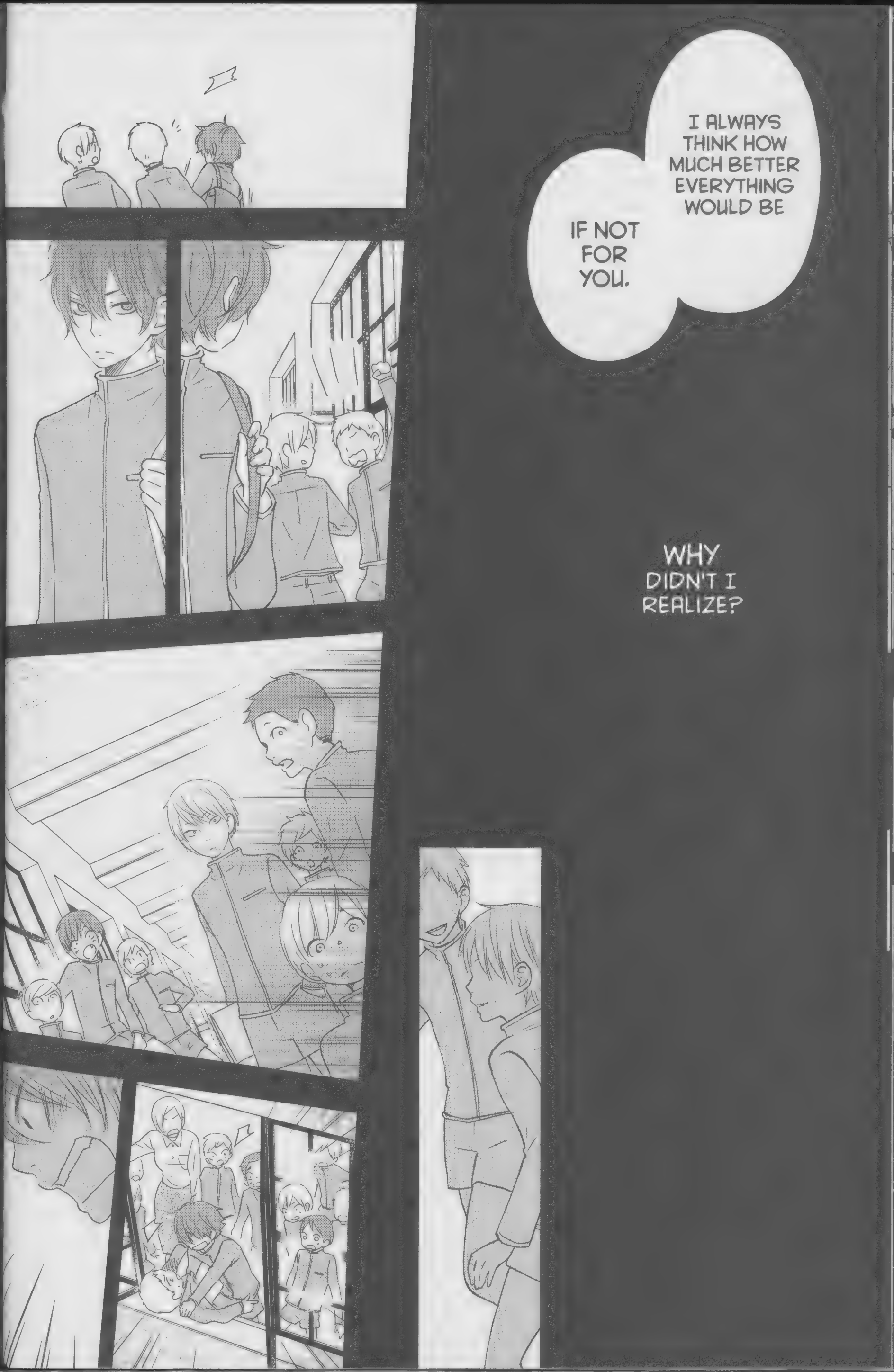

READY?
BEGIN!
...CAN I USE FORMULAS?
DO THE CALCULATIONS.
WHY... ISN'T YUZAN WITH ME?
BUZZZZ BUZZZZ
みーん
みーん
...HARU DOESN'T LIKE HIS TUTORING?

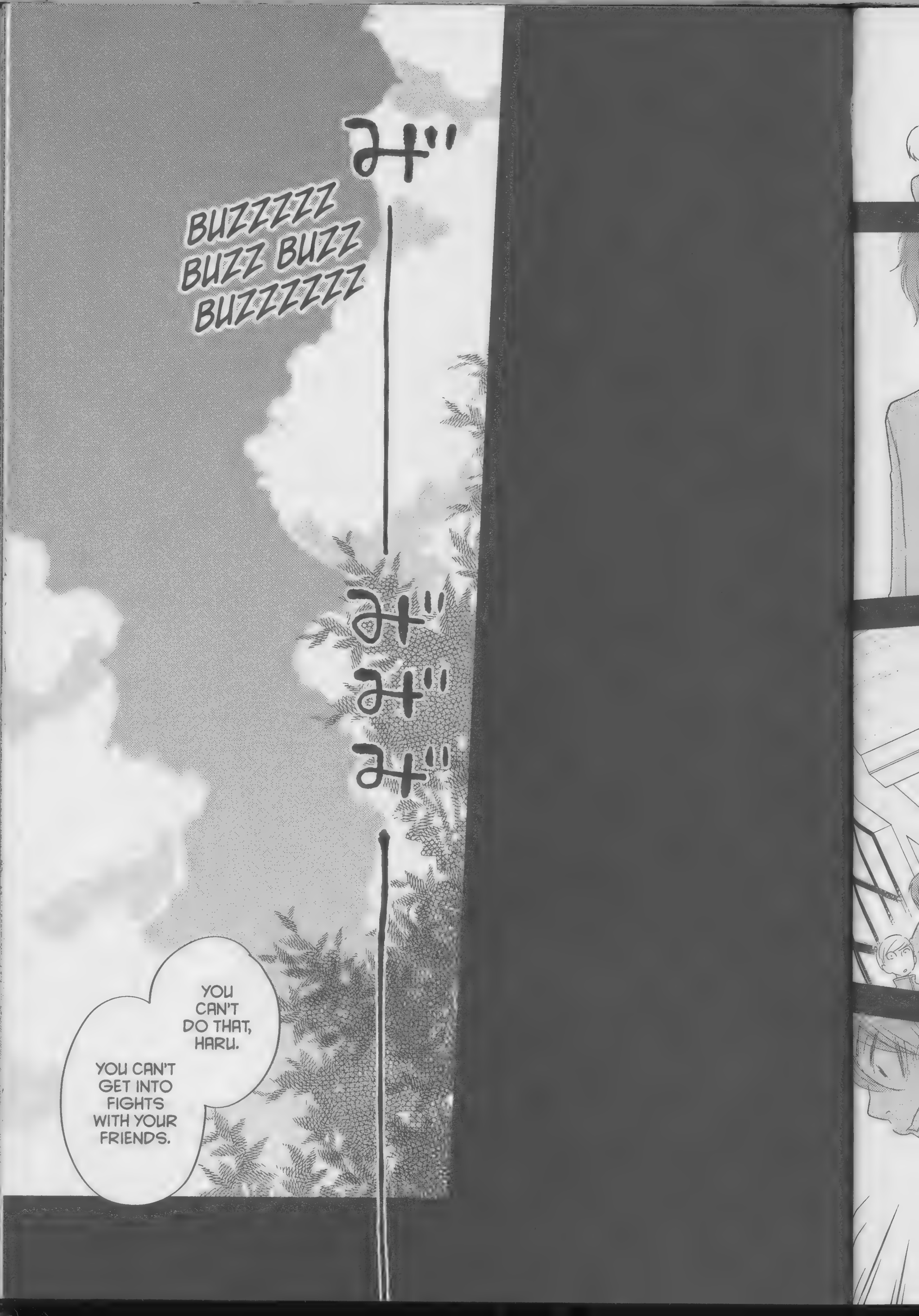

NO, AND NOT ONLY THAT— RECENTLY, HIS GRADES AT SCHOOL HAVE BEEN GETTING WORSE AND WORSE.
I HATE TO SAY THIS, BUT...
IT'S NOT UNCOMMON FOR CHILDREN TO DISPLAY SURPRISING ABILITIES WHEN THEY'RE YOUNG AND FULL OF CURIOSITY.
...
HEH.
SERVES YOU RIGHT.
OH!
YUZ...
...

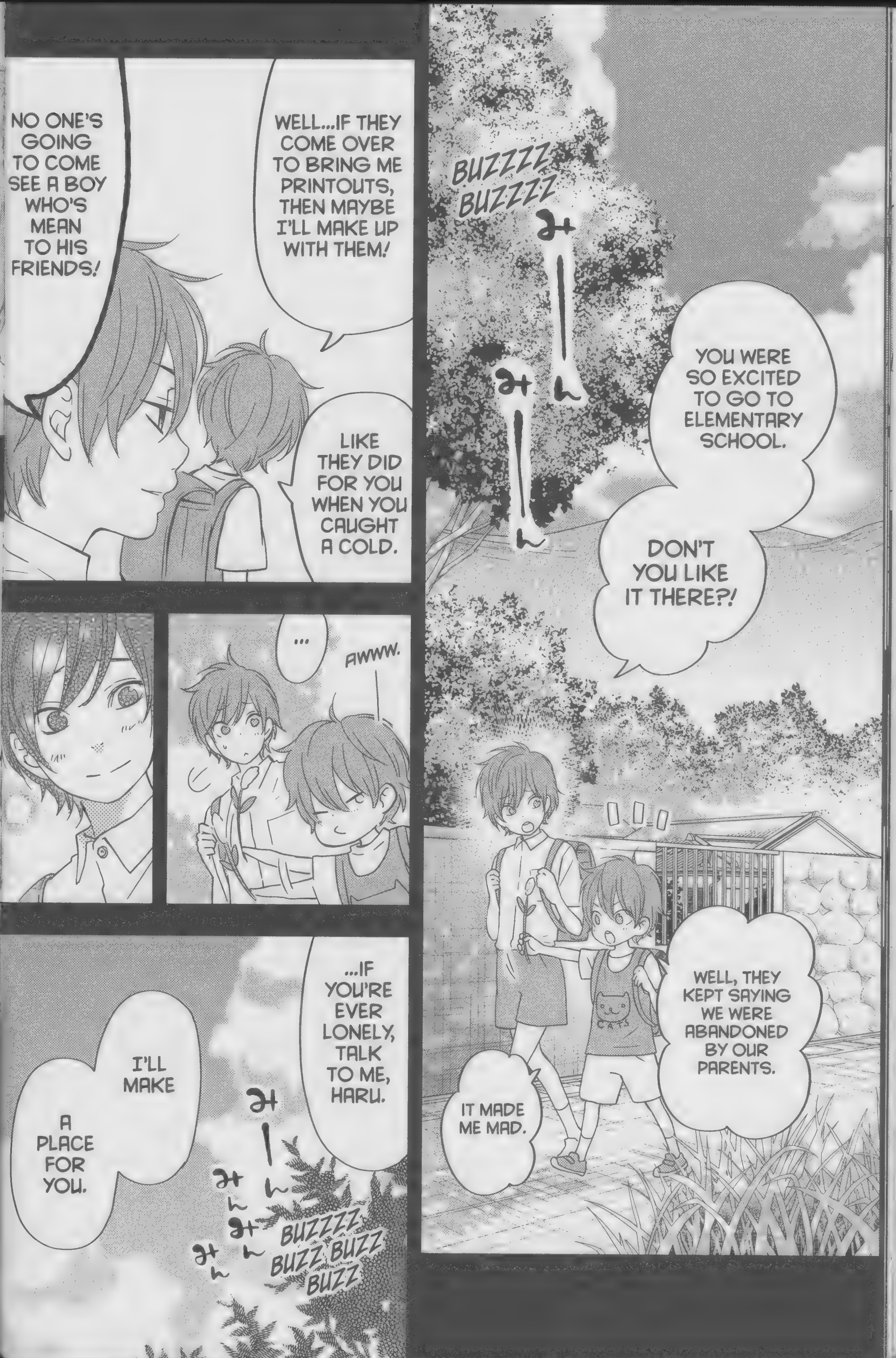

HARU.
...WHY DID YOU RUN AWAY FROM HOME?
CRUNCH ザッ
CRUNCH ザッ
THAT'S STUPID.
YOU KNOW THERE'S NOWHERE...
...FOR YOU OR ME TO GO HOME TO.
CRUNCH ザッ
...THAT'S NOT WHY. I DID IT...
...BECAUSE I KNEW YOU'D COME GET ME.
IT'S BEEN FOREVER
SINCE...
CRUNCH ザッ
CRUNCH ザッ
CRUNCH ザッ
DID YOU THINK YOU COULD
GO BACK TO TONÉ?
CRUNCH ザッ
...YOU'VE LOOKED ME IN THE FACE.
...YUZAN.
DO YOU...
...HATE ME NOW?


WHOOOOSH
ビュオッ
I... WISH
I COULD.
HUH...?
...
HEY!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
CRUNCH ザク
YUZAN!
CRUNCH ザク
Y...
...DID YOU KNOW, HARU?
THEY LET US COME HERE BECAUSE OF YOU.


ザァァァァァァァァァァァァ
ZSHHHH
YOU'RE LUCKY, HARU.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GETS ALL THE LOVE.
I BET YOU'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT...
...HOW I FEEL WHEN I LOOK AT YOU.
DID YOU
ALWAYS FEEL THAT WAY?
WAS I
IN YOUR WAY?
WHY...
K


I ALWAYS THINK HOW MUCH BETTER EVERYTHING WOULD BE IF NOT FOR YOU.
WHY DIDN'T I REALIZE?


みﾞ
BUZZZZZZ
BUZZ BUZZ
BUZZZZZZ
みﾞみﾞみﾞ
YOU CAN'T DO THAT, HARU.
YOU CAN'T GET INTO FIGHTS WITH YOUR FRIENDS.


BUZZZZ BUZZZZ
みーん
みーん
YOU WERE SO EXCITED TO GO TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
DON'T YOU LIKE IT THERE?!
WELL, THEY KEPT SAYING WE WERE ABANDONED BY OUR PARENTS.
IT MADE ME MAD.
WELL...IF THEY COME OVER TO BRING ME PRINTOUTS, THEN MAYBE I'LL MAKE UP WITH THEM!
NO ONE'S GOING TO COME SEE A BOY WHO'S MEAN TO HIS FRIENDS!
LIKE THEY DID FOR YOU WHEN YOU CAUGHT A COLD.
...
AWWW.
...IF YOU'RE EVER LONELY, TALK TO ME, HARU.
I'LL MAKE A PLACE FOR YOU.
みーん
みん
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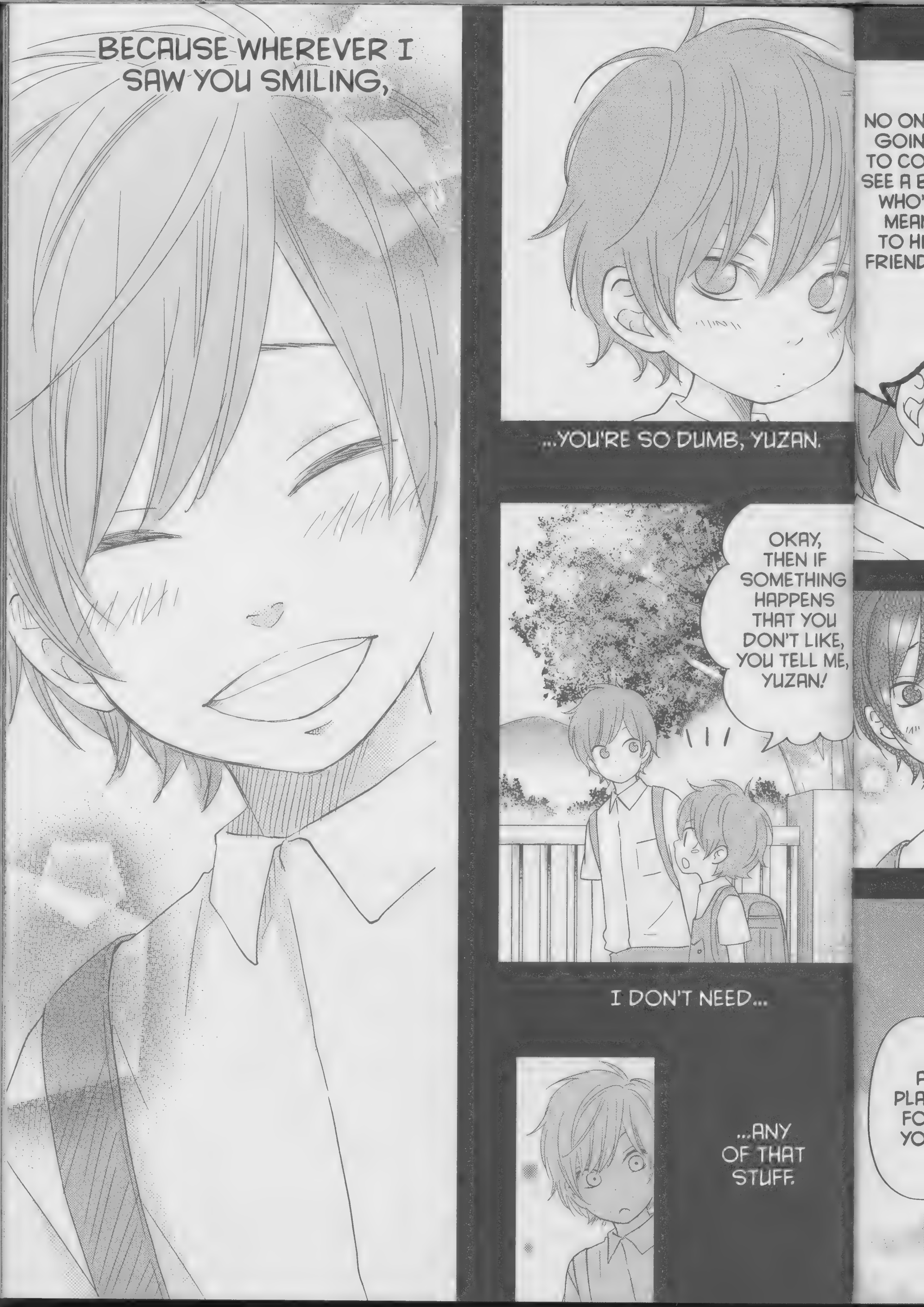
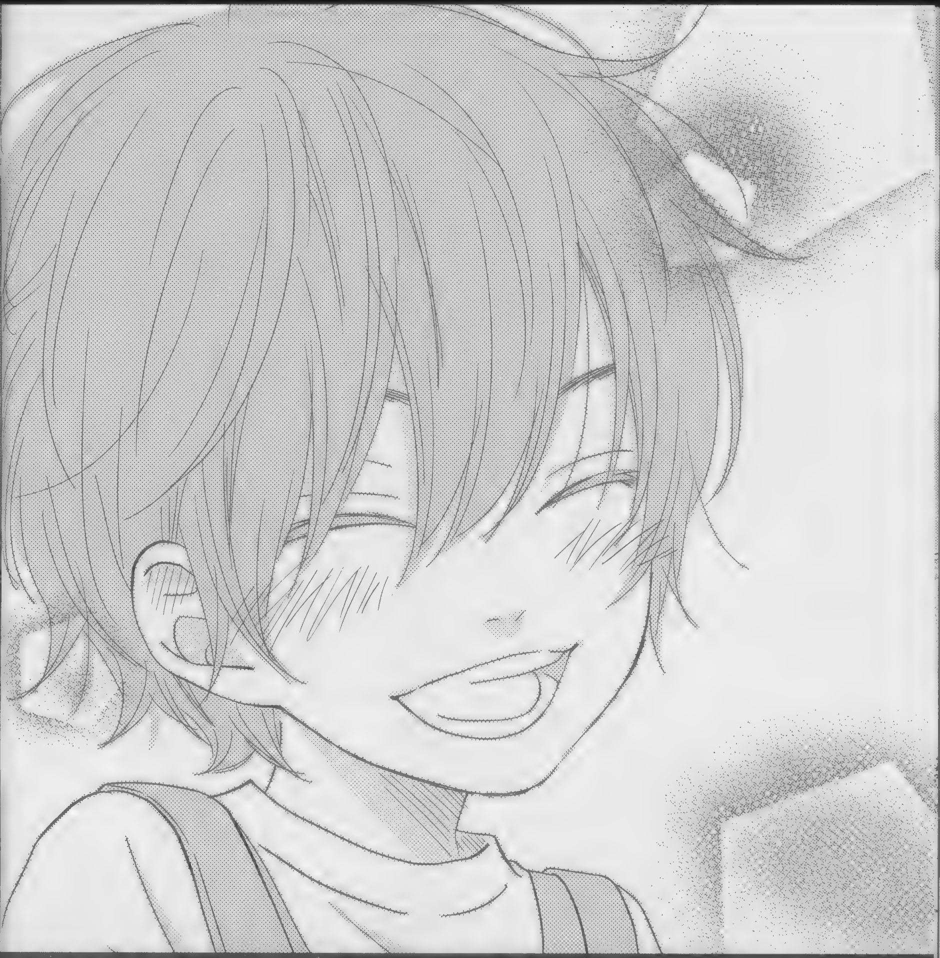
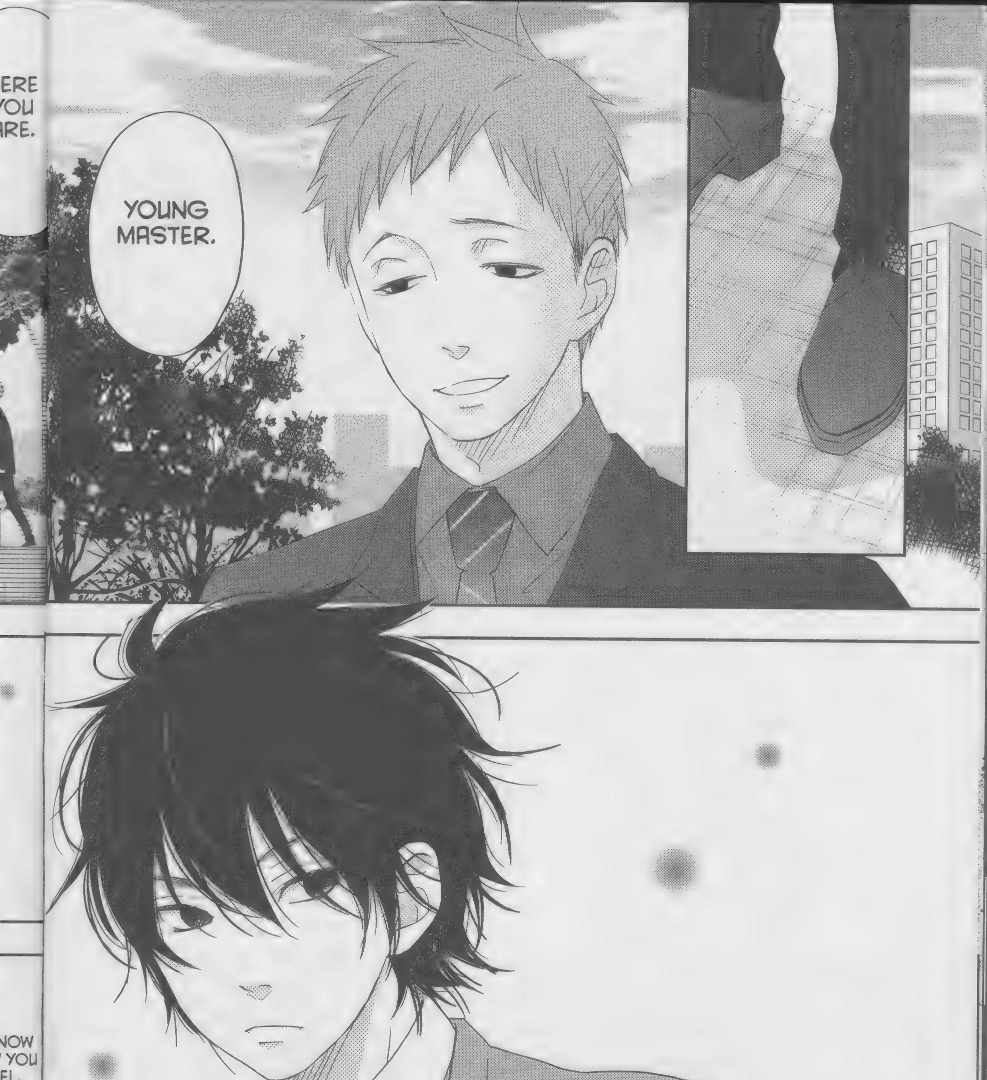
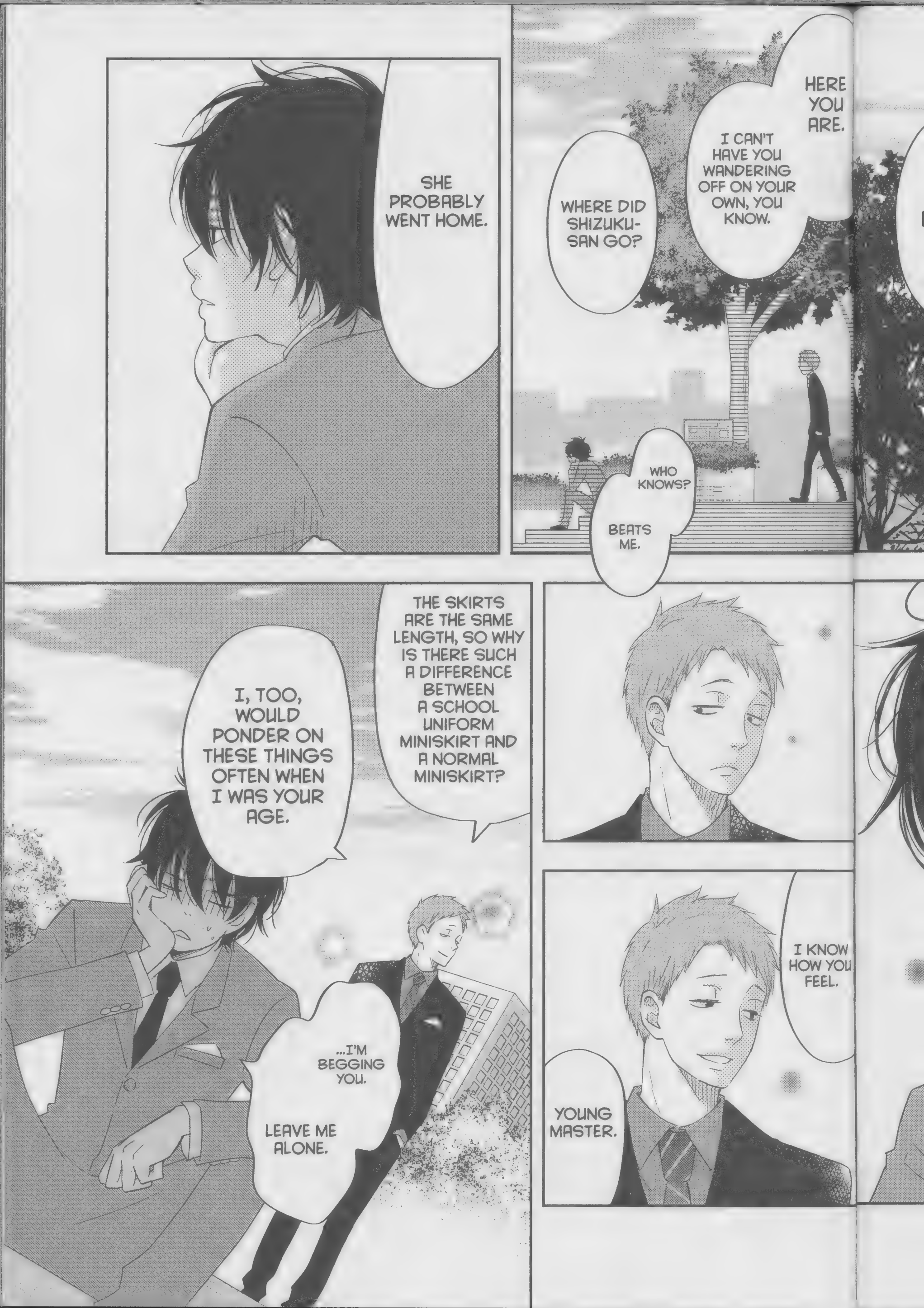
みん
BUZZZZ BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ

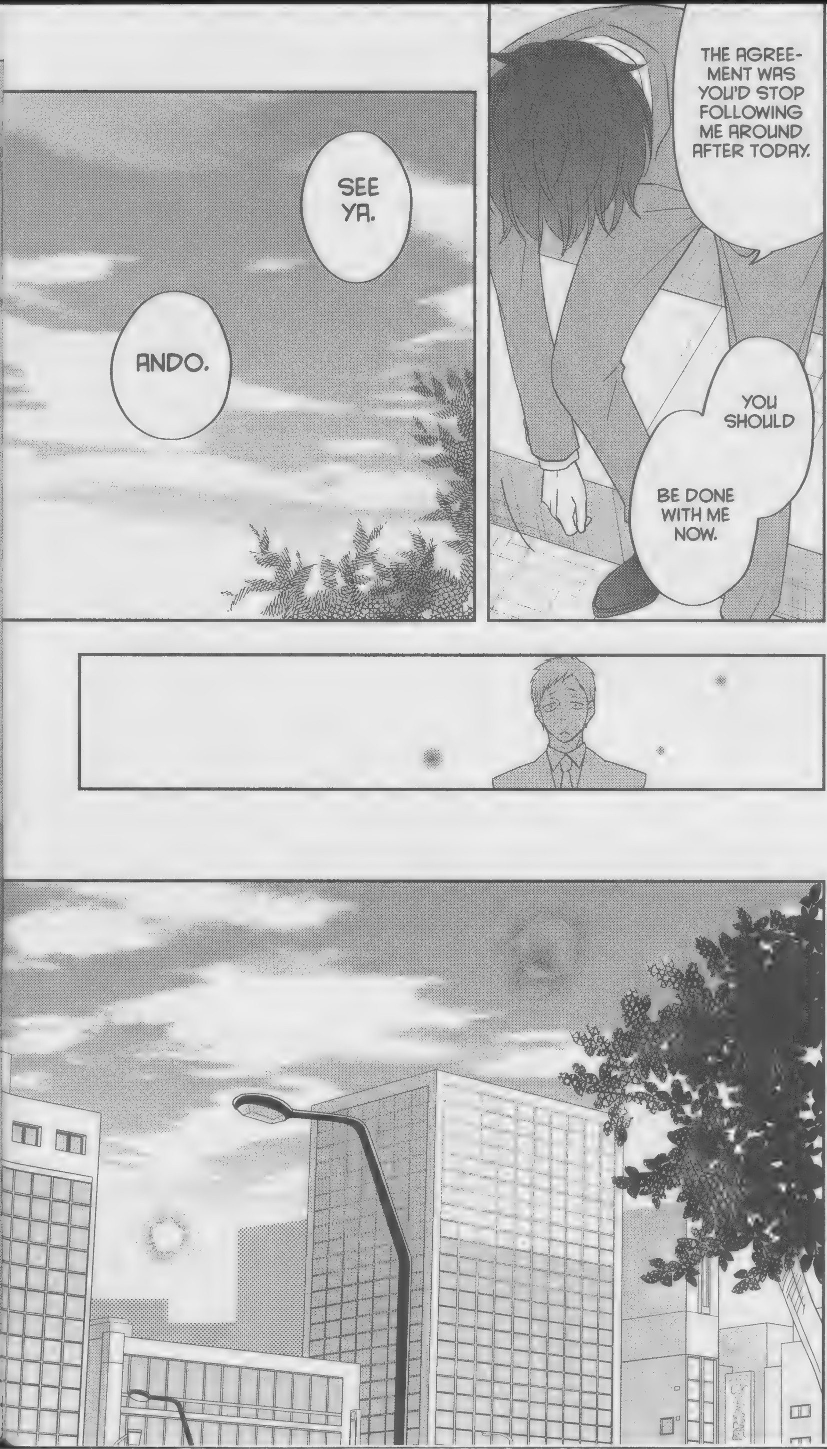

NO ON GOIN TO CO SEE A E WHO' MEAN TO HI FRIEND
A PLA FO YO
...YOU'RE SO DUMB, YUZAN.
OKAY, THEN IF SOMETHING HAPPENS THAT YOU DON'T LIKE, YOU TELL ME, YUZAN!
I DON'T NEED...
...ANY OF THAT STUFF.
BECAUSE WHEREVER I SAW YOU SMILING,

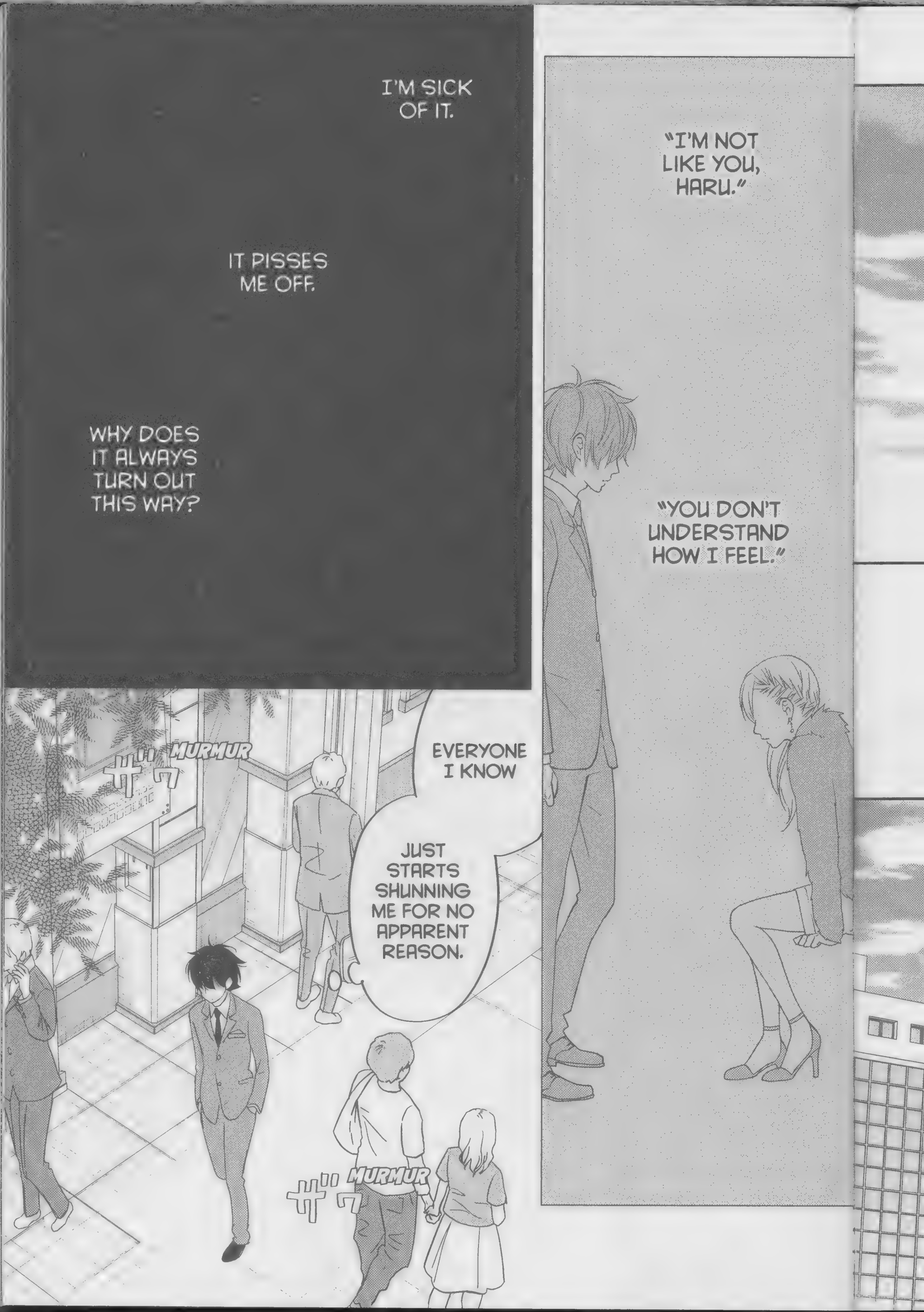


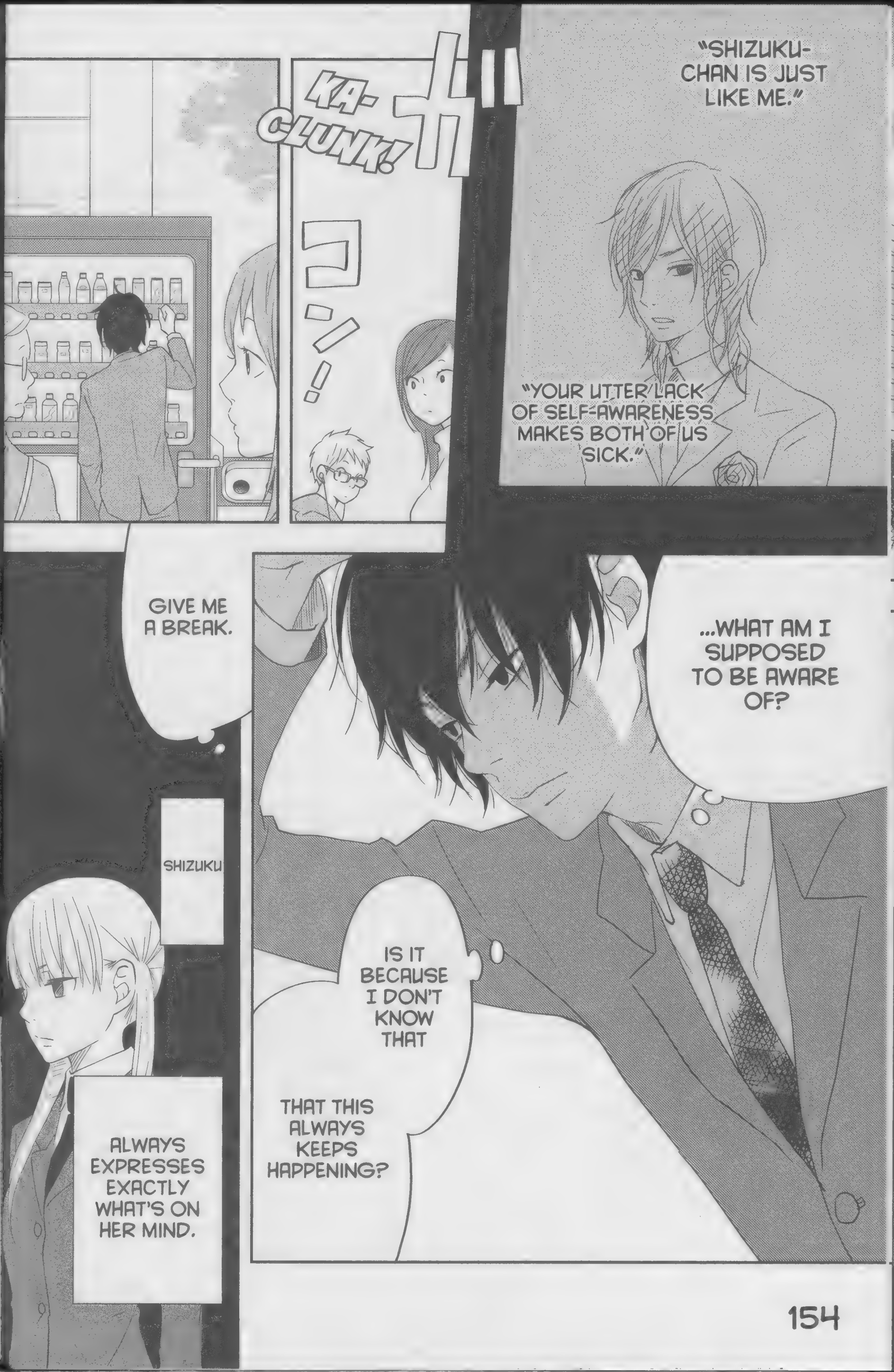
THAT WAS WHERE
I BELONGED.

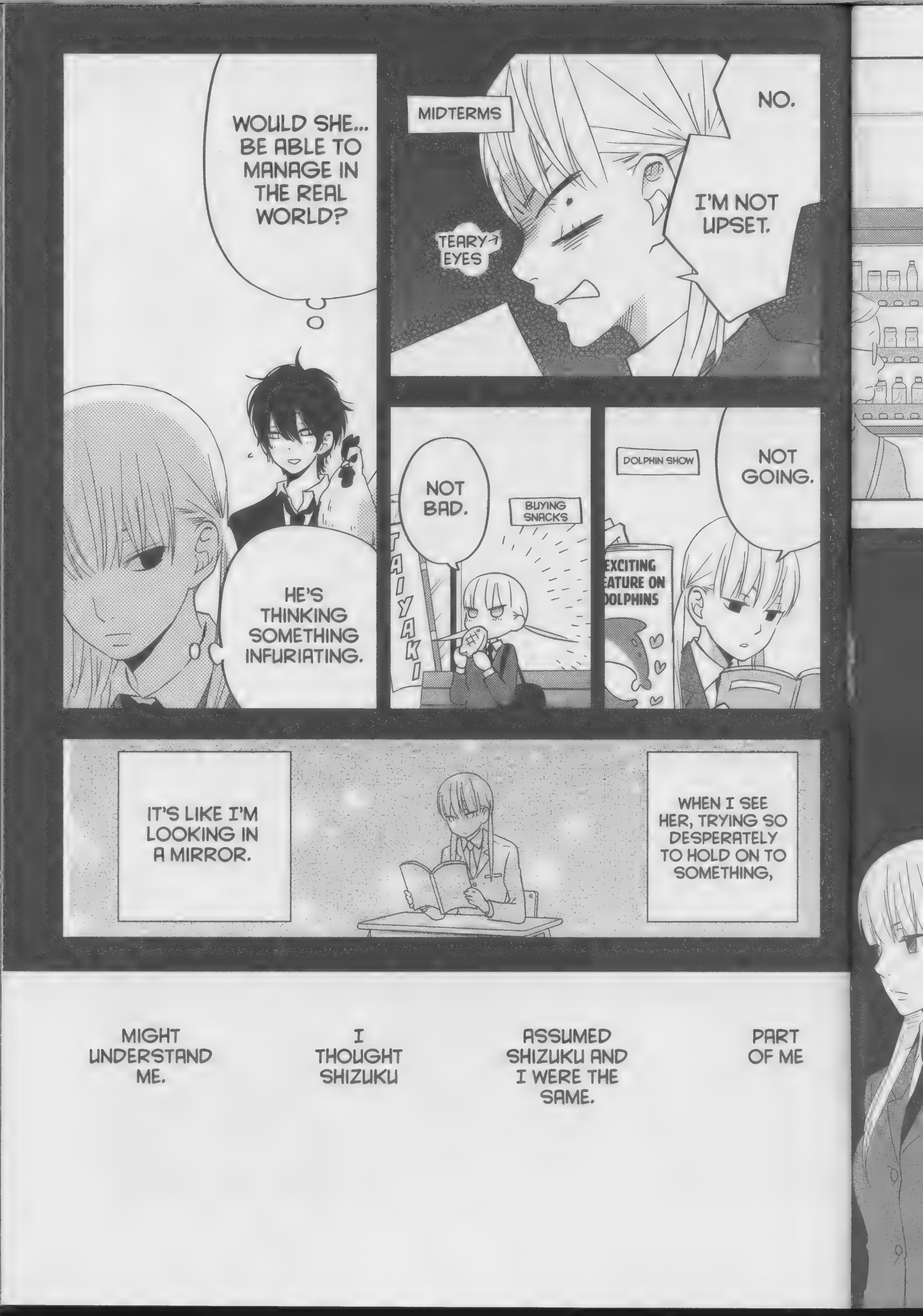

YOUNG MASTER.
ERE YOU ARE.
NOW YOU EL.

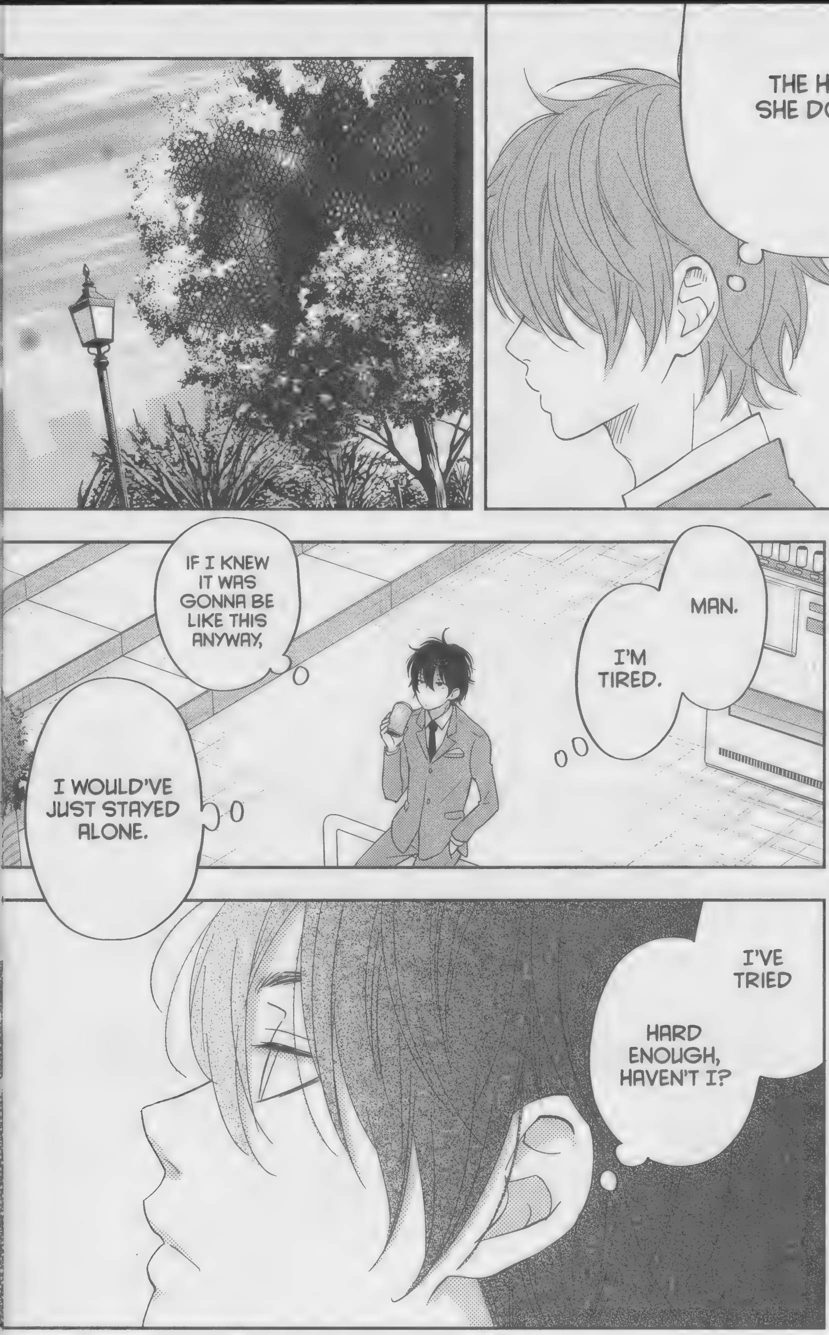

HERE YOU ARE.
I CAN'T HAVE YOU WANDERING OFF ON YOUR OWN, YOU KNOW.
WHERE DID SHIZUKU-SAN GO?
WHO KNOWS?
BEATS ME.
SHE PROBABLY WENT HOME.
THE SKIRTS ARE THE SAME LENGTH, SO WHY IS THERE SUCH A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SCHOOL UNIFORM MINISKIRT AND A NORMAL MINISKIRT?
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.
YOUNG MASTER.
I, TOO, WOULD PONDER ON THESE THINGS OFTEN WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE.
...I'M BEGGING YOU.
LEAVE ME ALONE.

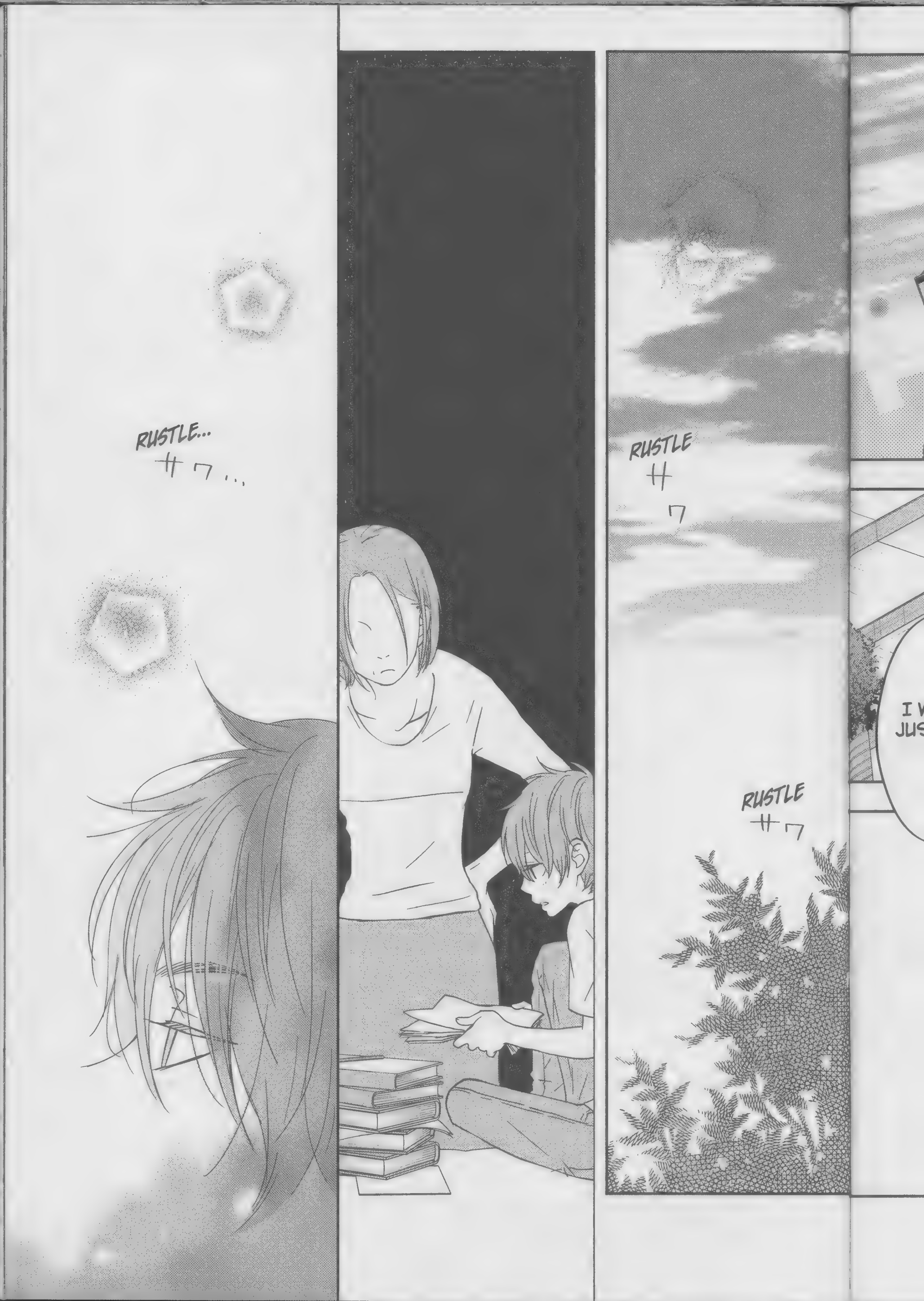

THE AGREEMENT WAS YOU'D STOP FOLLOWING ME AROUND AFTER TODAY.
YOU SHOULD
BE DONE WITH ME NOW.
SEE YA.
ANDO.

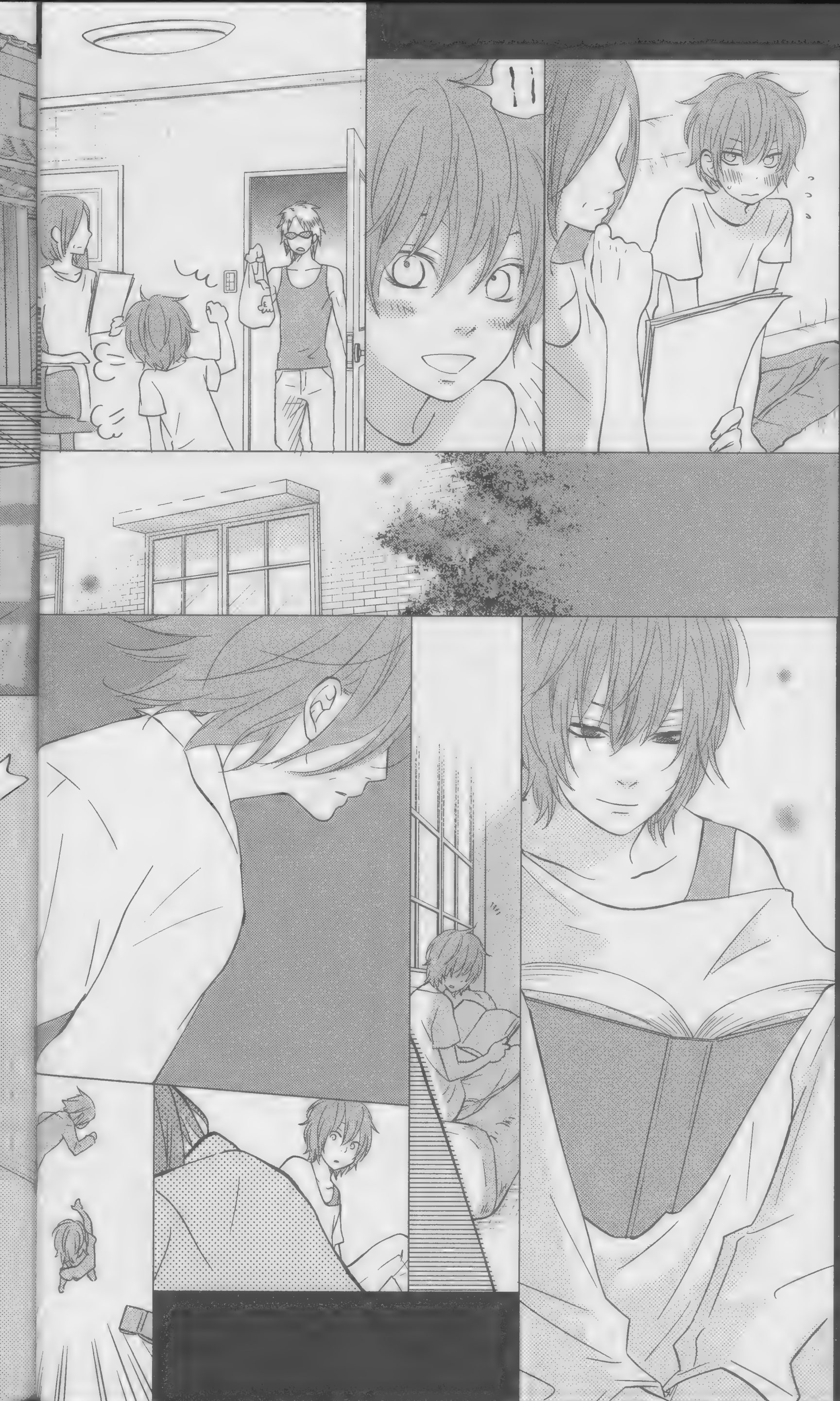

"I'M NOT LIKE YOU, HARU."
"YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL."
I'M SICK OF IT.
IT PISSES ME OFF.
WHY DOES IT ALWAYS TURN OUT THIS WAY?
EVERYONE I KNOW
JUST STARTS SHUNNING ME FOR NO APPARENT REASON.
ザワ MURMUR
ザワ MURMUR

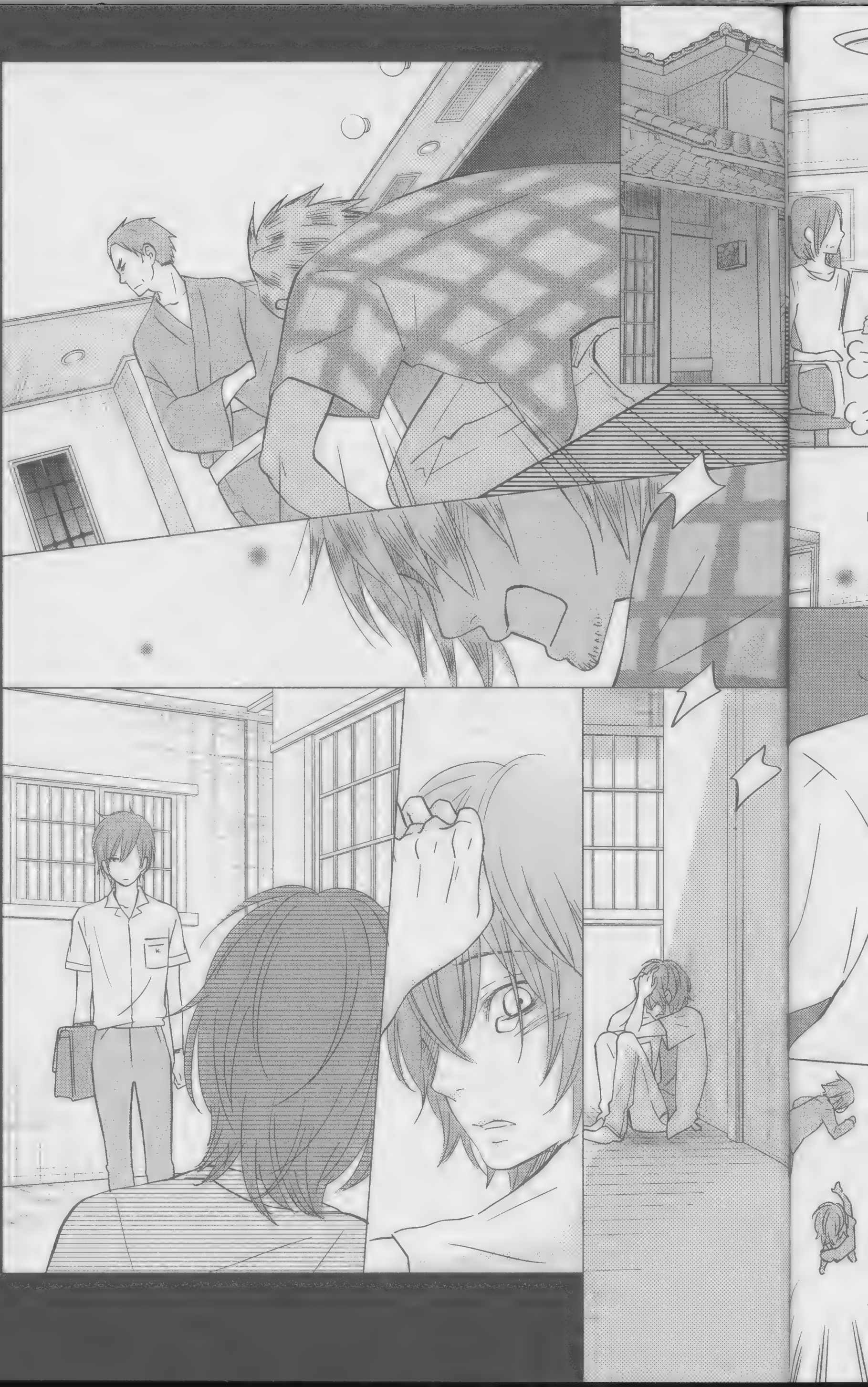

"SHIZUKU-CHAN IS JUST LIKE ME."
"YOUR UTTER LACK OF SELF-AWARENESS MAKES BOTH OF US SICK."
KA-CLUNK!
ガッ
コン!
...WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO BE AWARE OF?
GIVE ME A BREAK.
IS IT BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW THAT
THAT THIS ALWAYS KEEPS HAPPENING?
SHIZUKU
ALWAYS EXPRESSES EXACTLY WHAT'S ON HER MIND.


NO.
I'M NOT UPSET.
MIDTERMS
TEARY EYES
DOLPHIN SHOW
NOT GOING.
EXCITING FEATURE ON DOLPHINS
BUYING SNACKS
NOT BAD.
TAIYAKI
WOULD SHE... BE ABLE TO MANAGE IN THE REAL WORLD?
HE'S THINKING SOMETHING INFURIATING.
WHEN I SEE HER, TRYING SO DESPERATELY TO HOLD ON TO SOMETHING,
IT'S LIKE I'M LOOKING IN A MIRROR.
PART OF ME
ASSUMED SHIZUKU AND I WERE THE SAME.
I THOUGHT SHIZUKU
MIGHT UNDERSTAND ME.

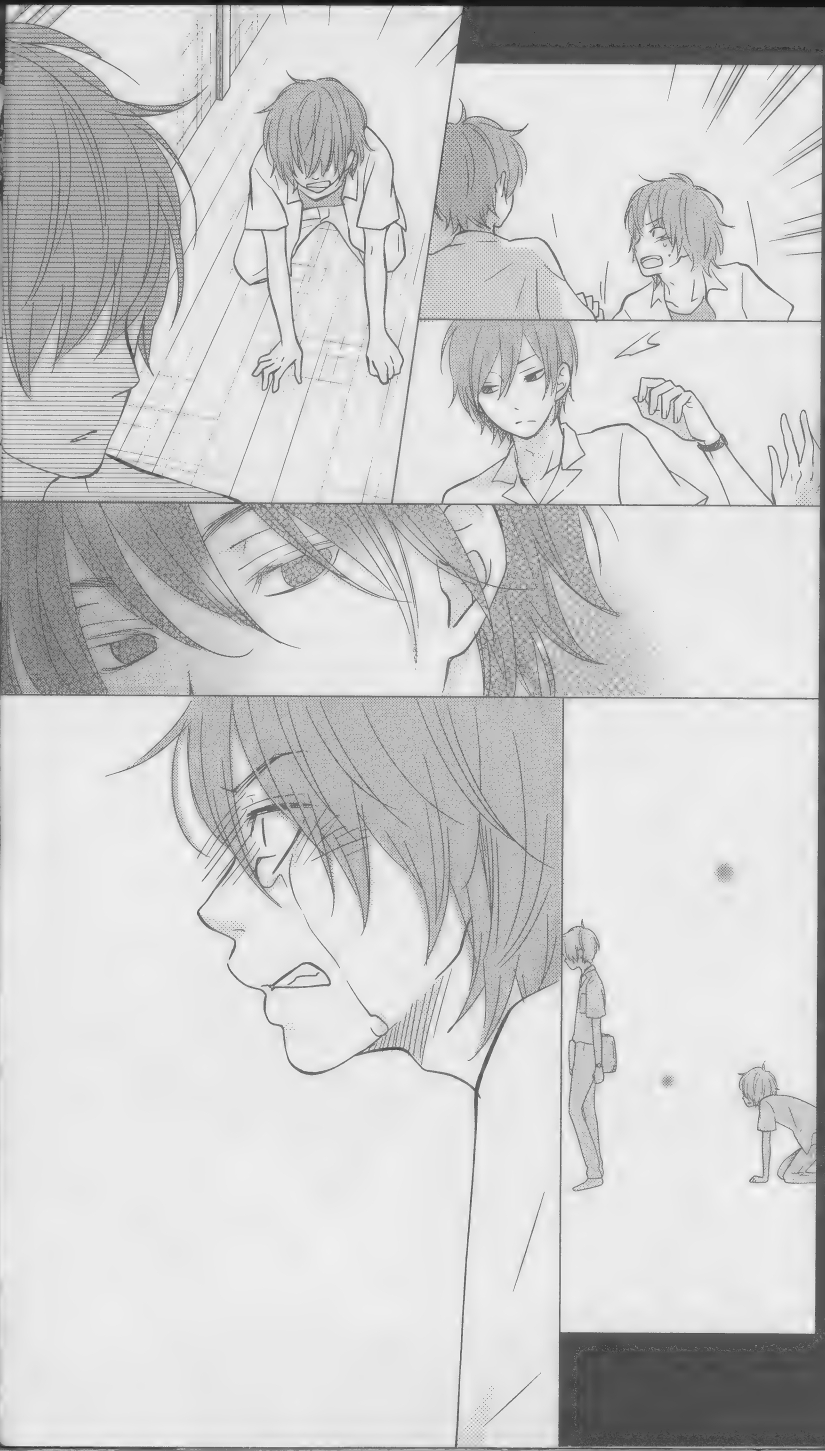

THE HELL SHE DOES.
MAN. I'M TIRED.
IF I KNEW IT WAS GONNA BE LIKE THIS ANYWAY,
I WOULD'VE JUST STAYED ALONE.
I'VE TRIED HARD ENOUGH, HAVEN'T I?

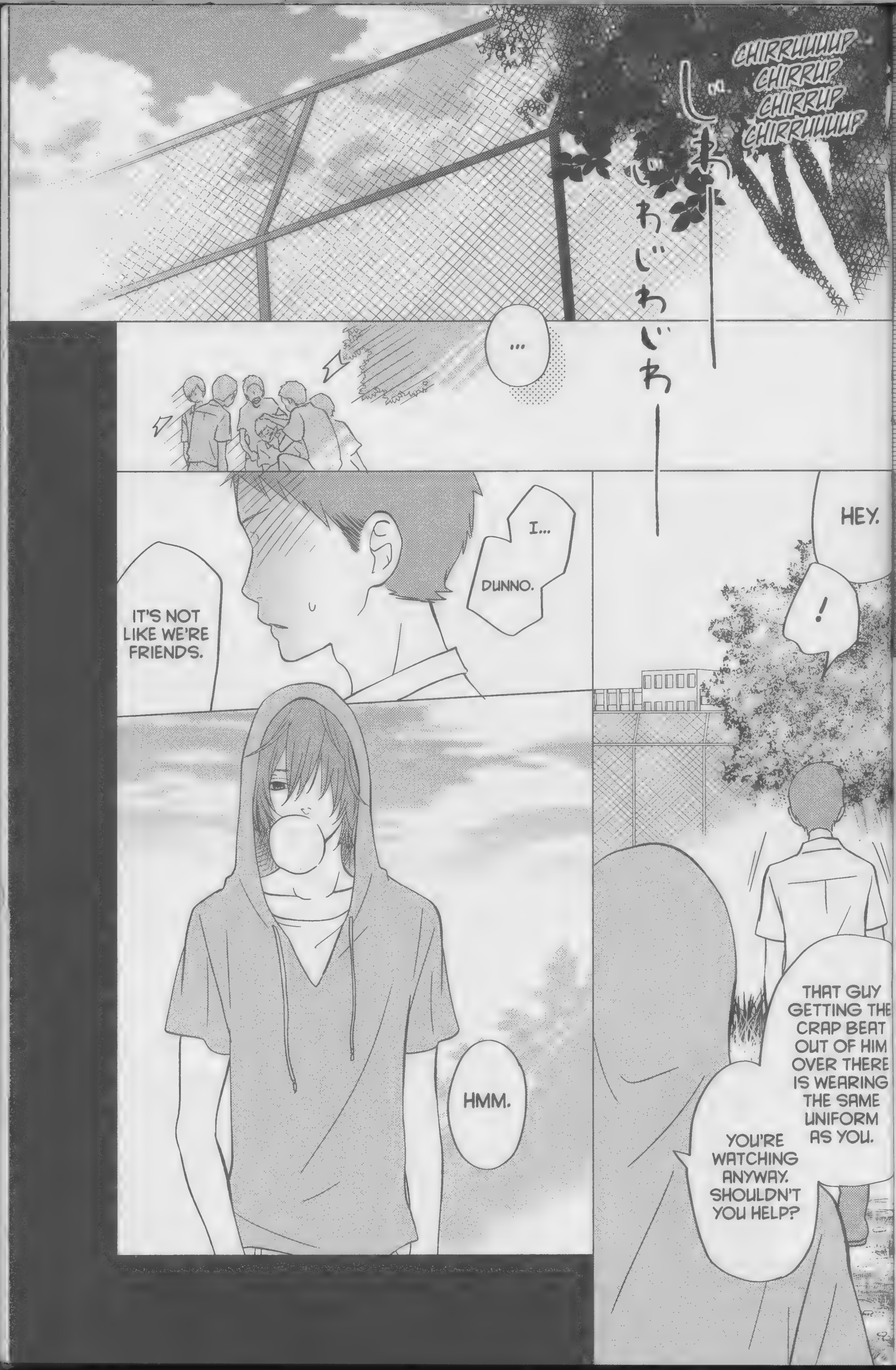

I W
JUS
RUSTLE
サ
ワ
RUSTLE
サワ
RUSTLE...
サワ...

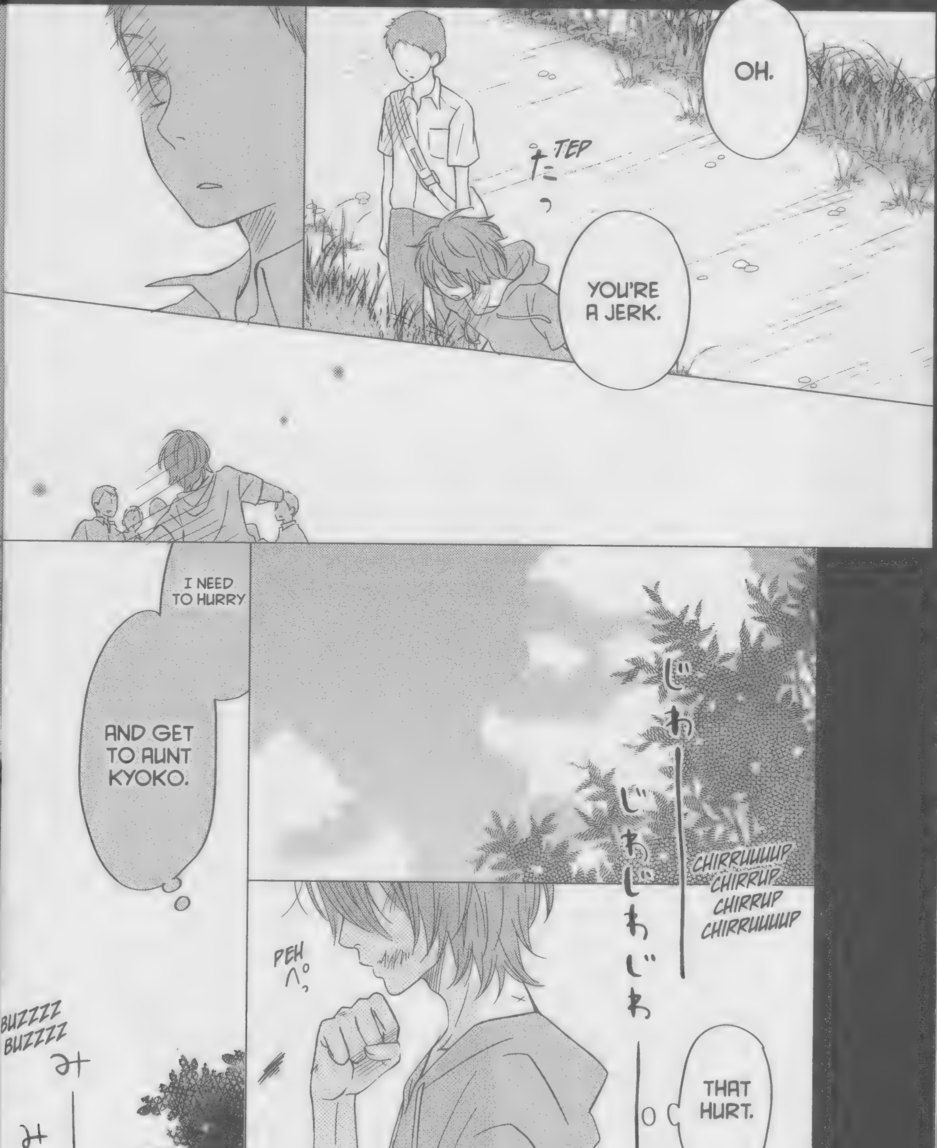


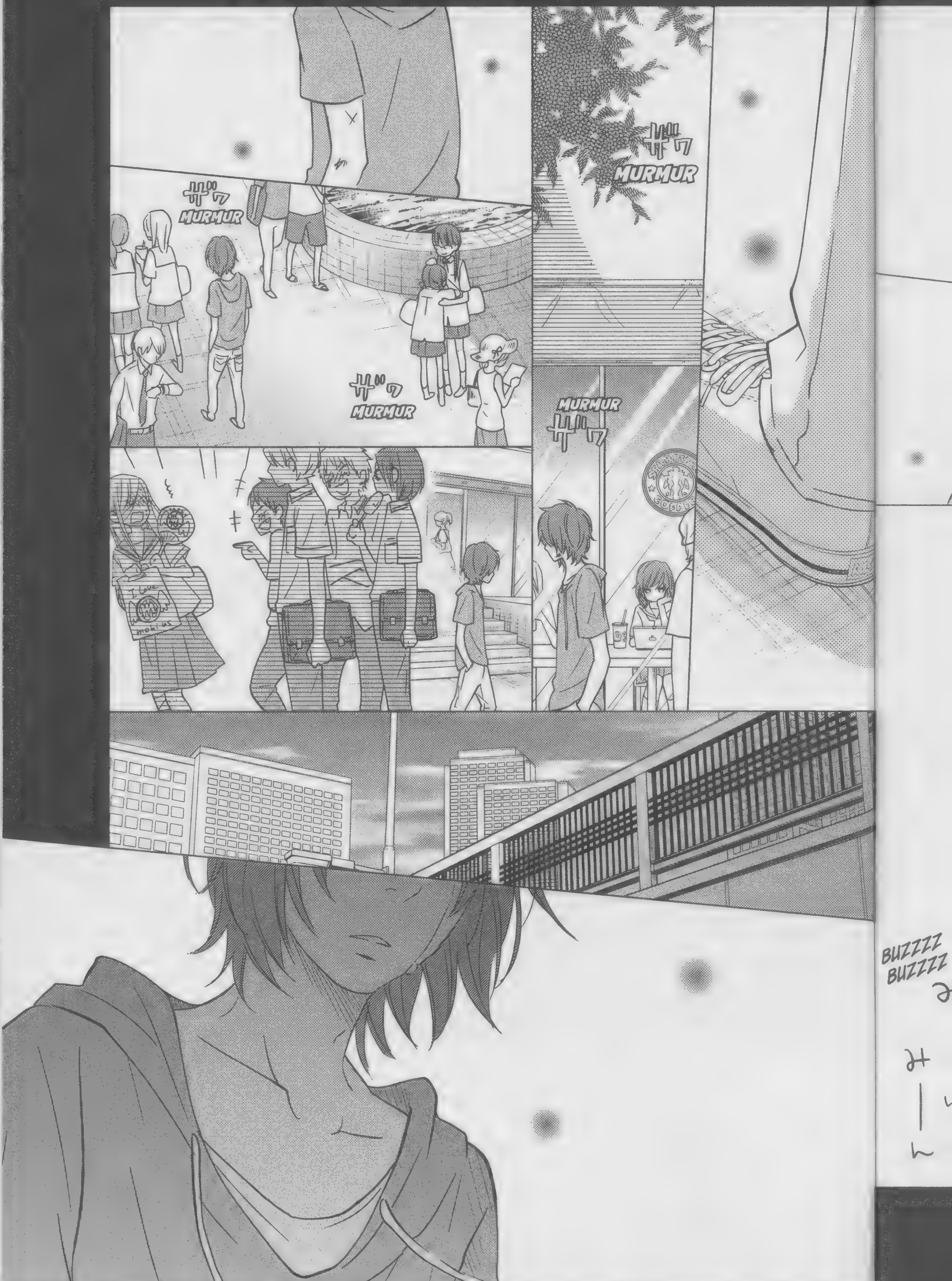


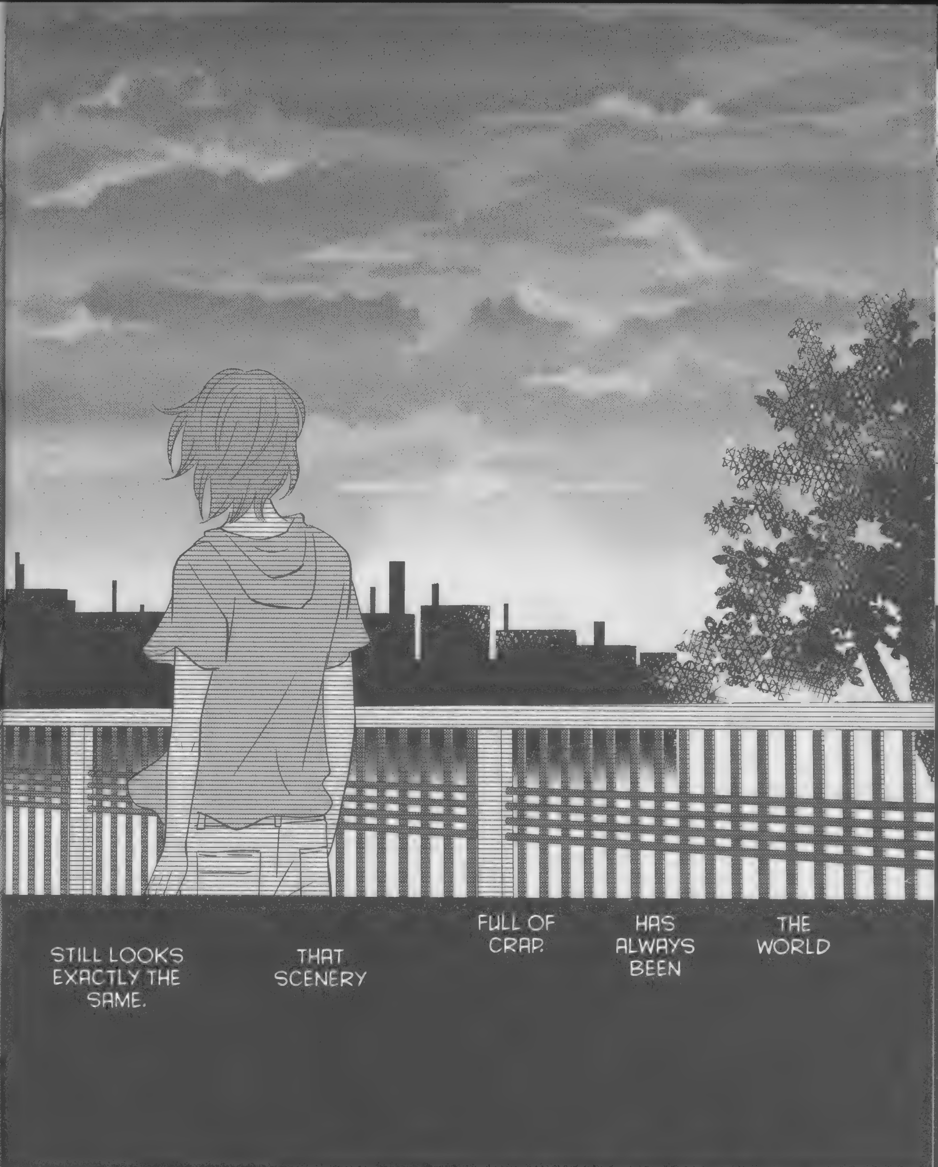
EY.
GUY
S THE
EAT
HIM
ERE
ING
ME
RM
U.

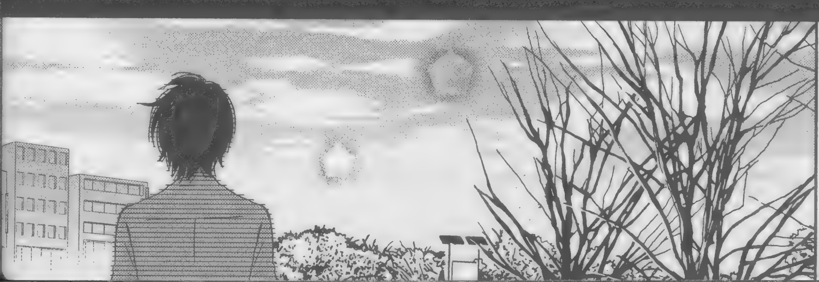


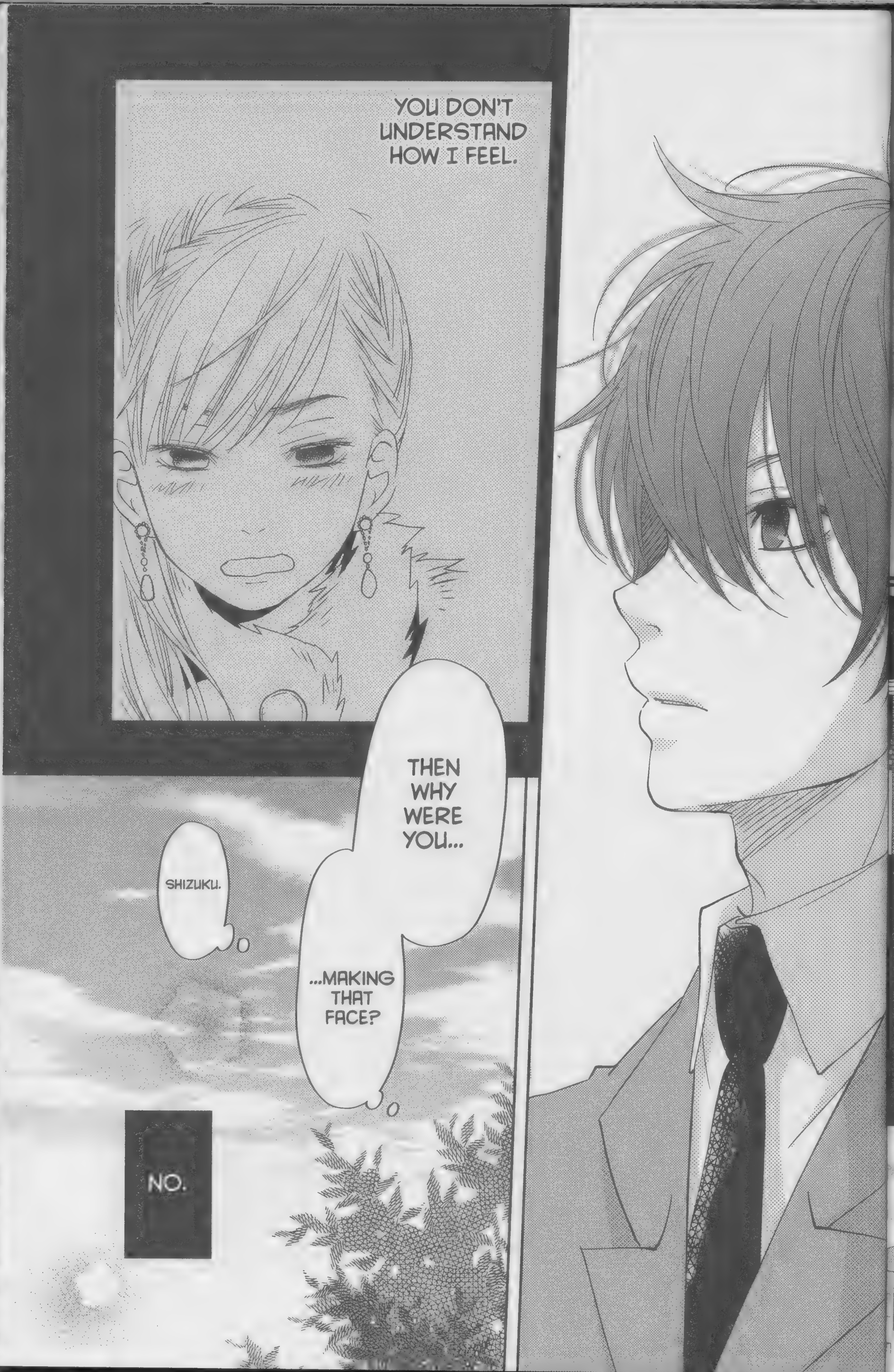

CHIRRUUUUP
CHIRRUP
CHIRRUP
CHIRRUUUUP
しゃわー
じわじわじわー
...
HEY.
!
THAT GUY GETTING THE CRAP BEAT OUT OF HIM OVER THERE IS WEARING THE SAME UNIFORM AS YOU.
YOU'RE WATCHING ANYWAY. SHOULDN'T YOU HELP?
I...
DUNNO.
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE FRIENDS.
HMM.

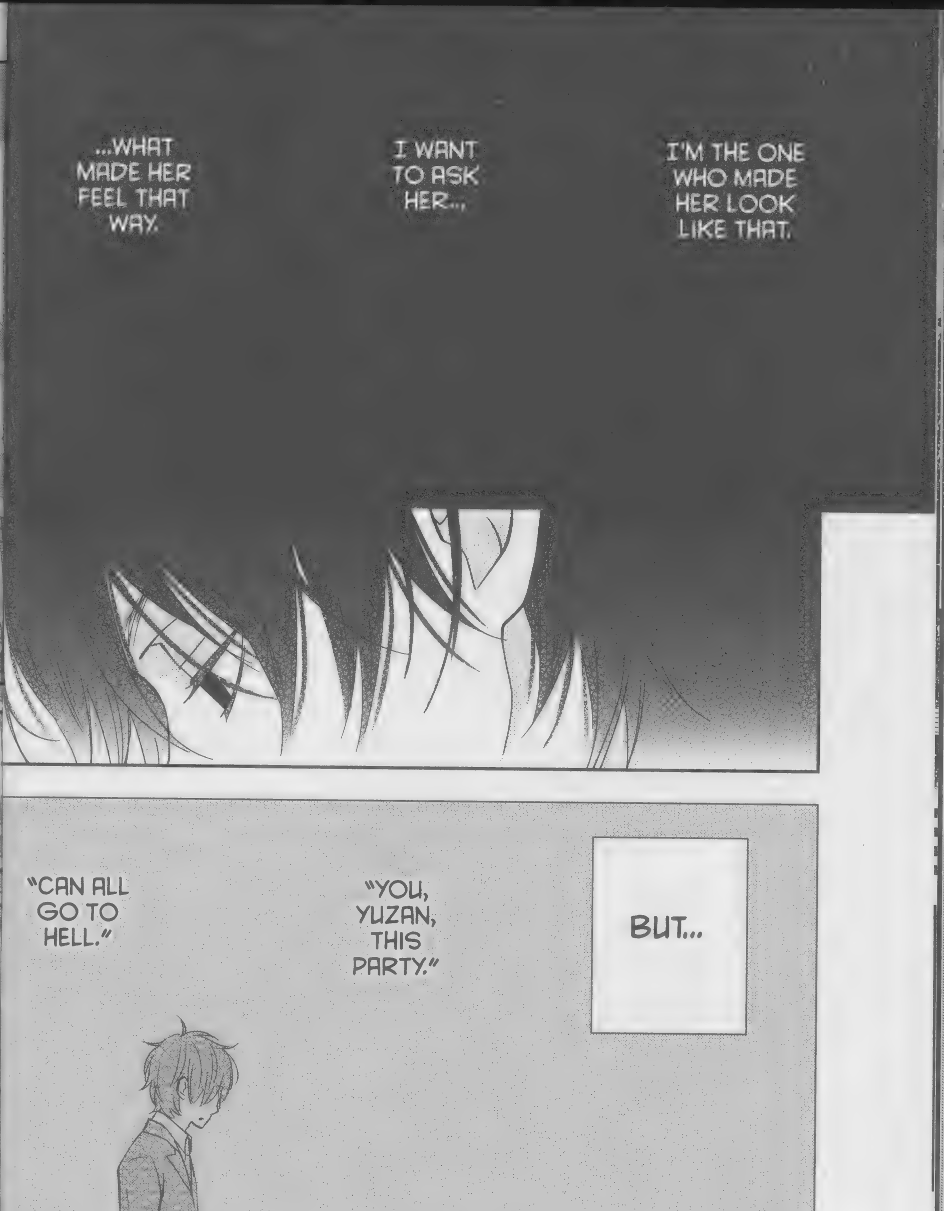

OH.
TEP
たっ
YOU'RE A JERK.
じわー
じわじわじわー
CHIRRUUUUP
CHIRRUP
CHIRRUP
CHIRRUUUUP
PEH
へっ
THAT HURT.
I NEED TO HURRY
AND GET TO AUNT KYOKO.
BUZZZZ
BUZZZZ
みーん
みーん

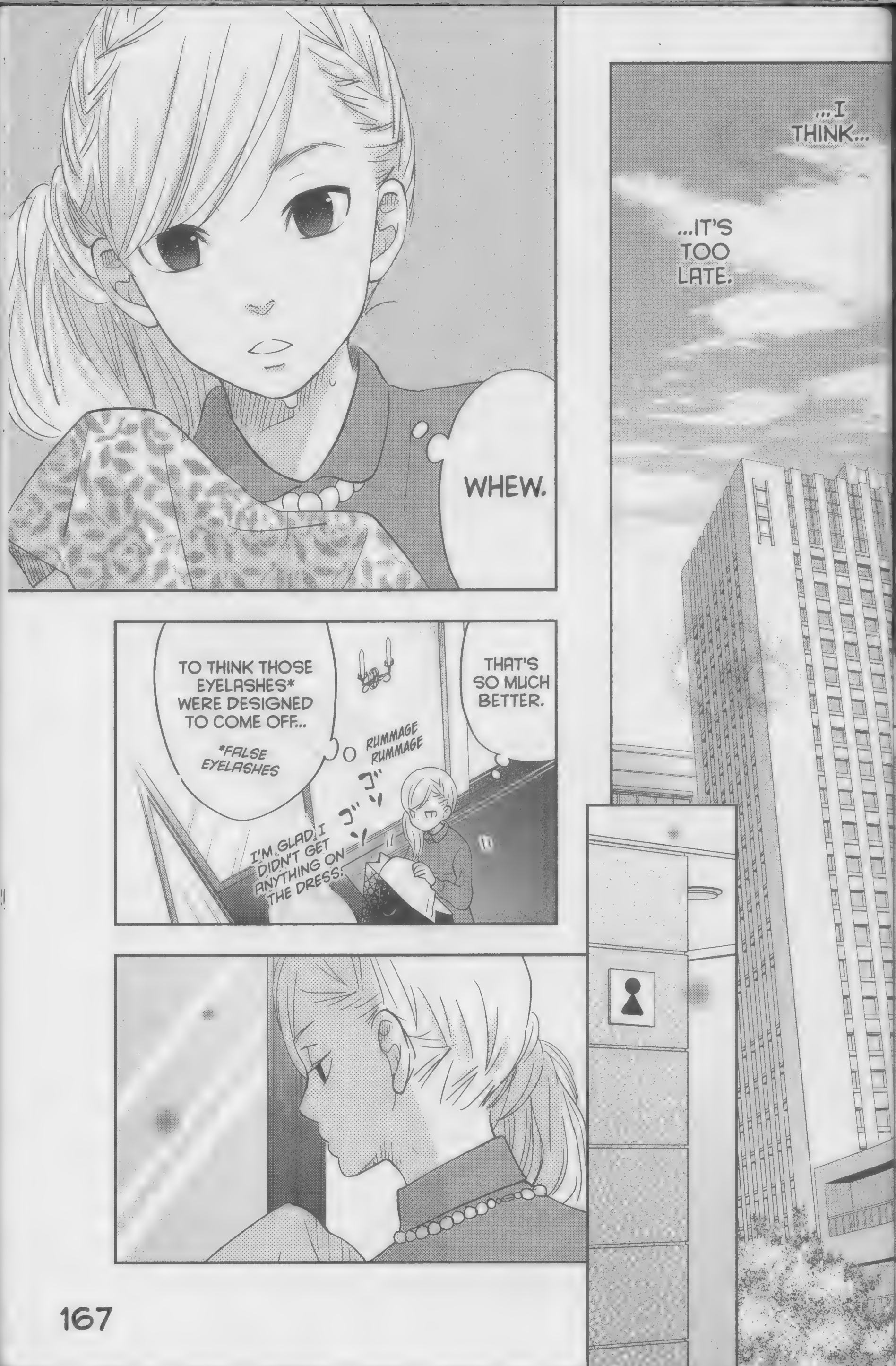

ザワ
MURMUR
MURMUR
ザワ
ザワ
MURMUR
ザワ
MURMUR
I Love
mobius
BUZZZZ
BUZZZZ
み
みーん

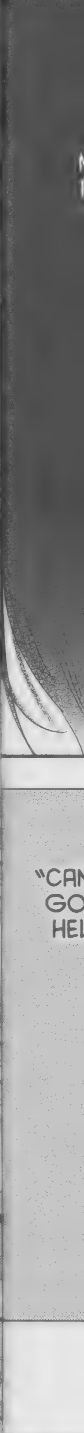

THE WORLD
HAS ALWAYS BEEN
FULL OF CRAP.
THAT SCENERY
STILL LOOKS EXACTLY THE SAME.

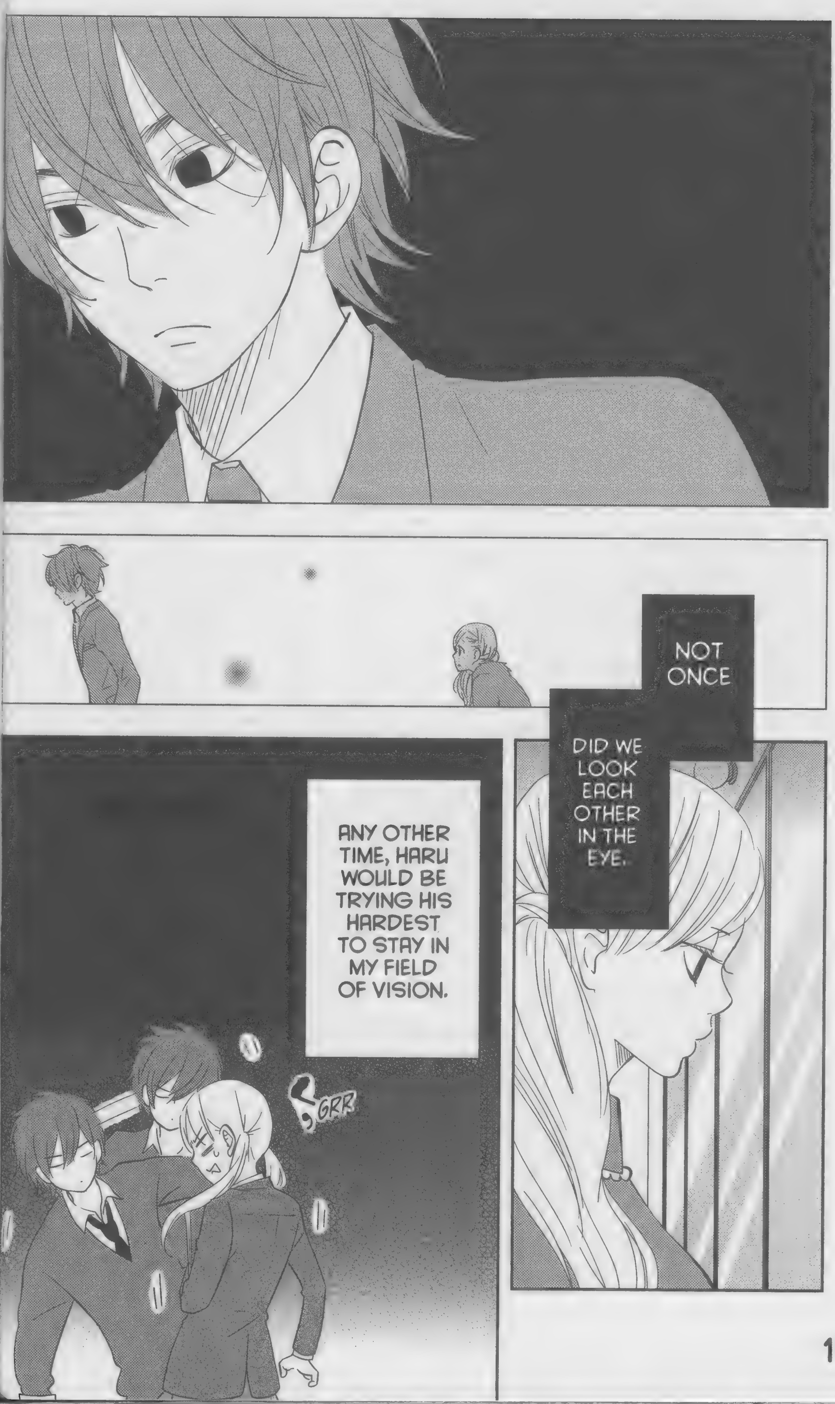


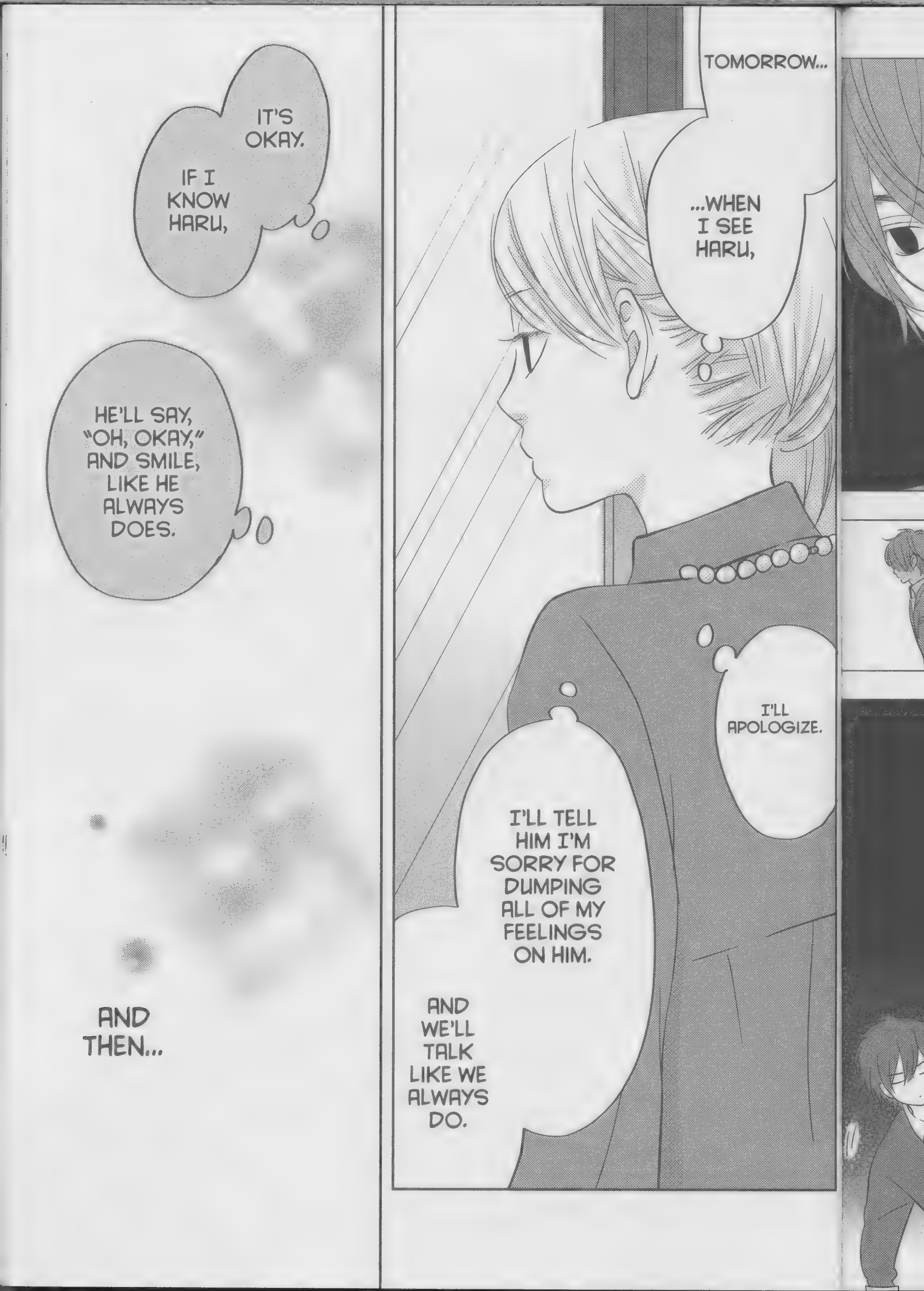

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL.
THEN WHY WERE YOU...
...MAKING THAT FACE?
SHIZUKU.
NO.

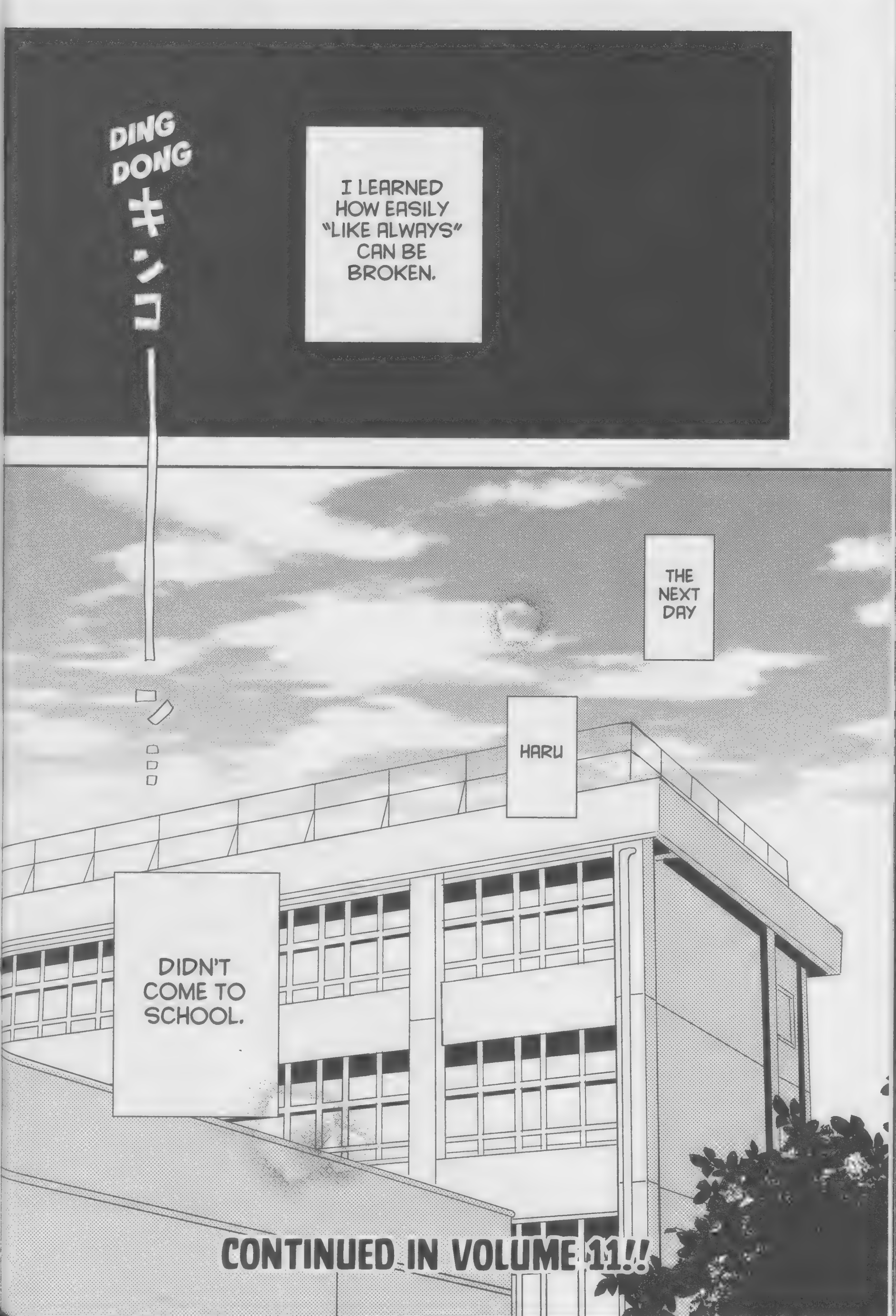

I'M THE ONE WHO MADE HER LOOK LIKE THAT.
I WANT TO ASK HER...
...WHAT MADE HER FEEL THAT WAY.
BUT...
"YOU, YUZAN, THIS PARTY."
"CAN ALL GO TO HELL."


...I THINK...
...IT'S TOO LATE.
WHEW.
THAT'S SO MUCH BETTER.
TO THINK THOSE EYELASHES* WERE DESIGNED TO COME OFF...
*FALSE EYELASHES
RUMMAGE RUMMAGE
ゴソ ゴソ
I'M GLAD I DIDN'T GET ANYTHING ON THE DRESS.


"CAN
GO
HEL

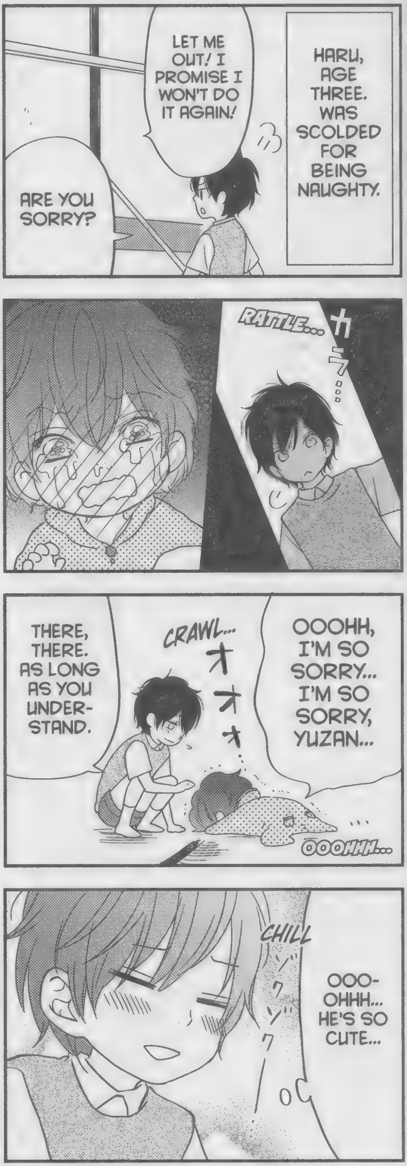

NOT ONCE
DID WE LOOK EACH OTHER IN THE EYE.
ANY OTHER TIME, HARU WOULD BE TRYING HIS HARDEST TO STAY IN MY FIELD OF VISION.
GRR


TOMORROW...
...WHEN I SEE HARU,
I'LL APOLOGIZE.
I'LL TELL HIM I'M SORRY FOR DUMPING ALL OF MY FEELINGS ON HIM.
AND WE'LL TALK LIKE WE ALWAYS DO.
IT'S OKAY.
IF I KNOW HARU,
HE'LL SAY, "OH, OKAY," AND SMILE, LIKE HE ALWAYS DOES.
AND THEN...

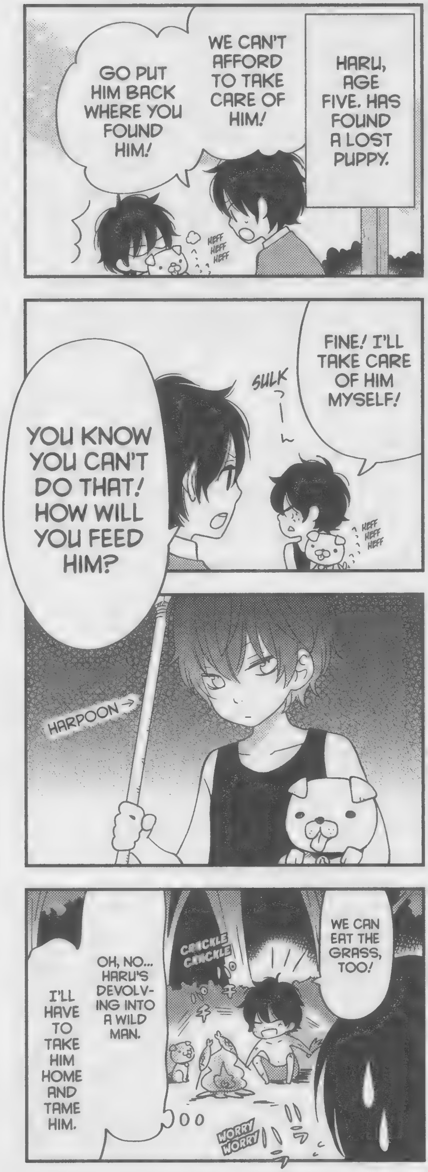

I LEARNED HOW EASILY "LIKE ALWAYS" CAN BE BROKEN.
DING DONG
キンコーン…
THE NEXT DAY
HARU
DIDN'T COME TO SCHOOL.

CONTINUED IN VOLUME 11!!

YOUNG BROTHERS, PART 1

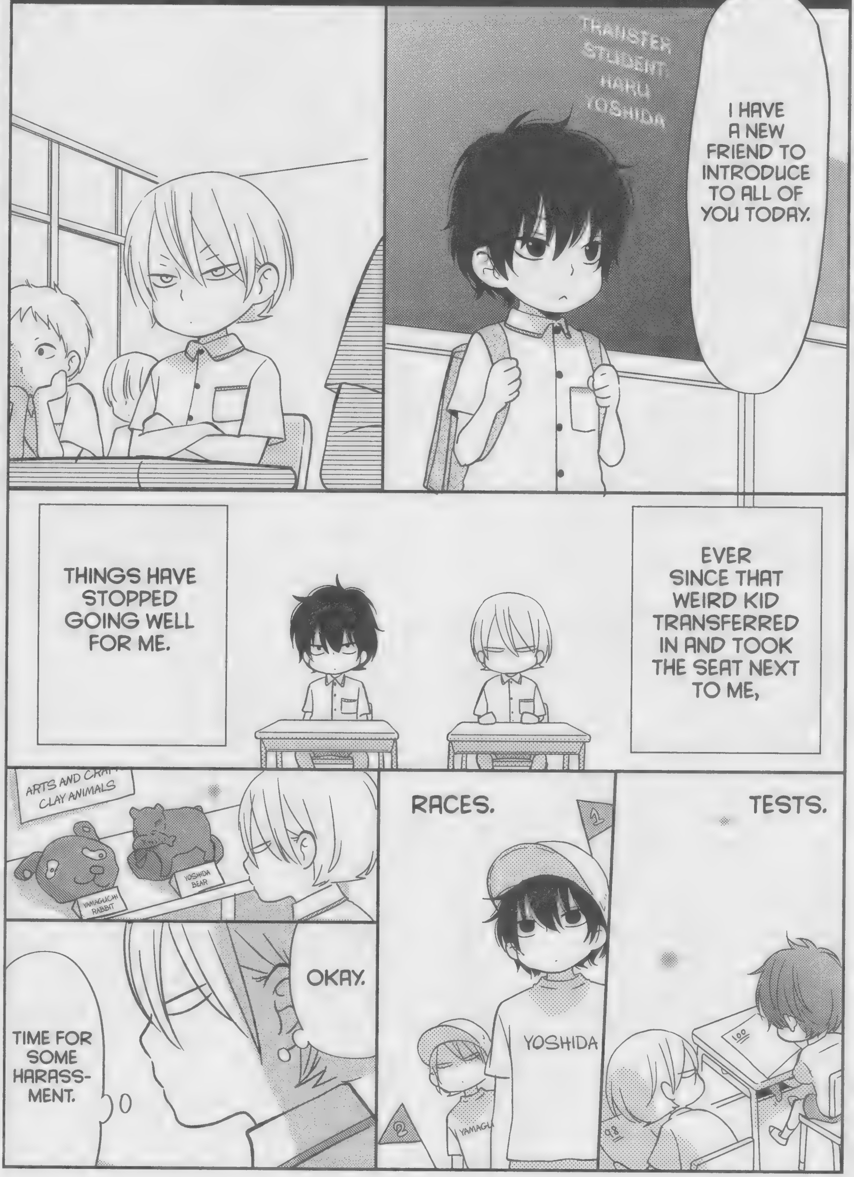

HARU, AGE THREE. WAS SCOLDED FOR BEING NAUGHTY.
LET ME OUT! I PROMISE I WON'T DO IT AGAIN!
ARE YOU SORRY?
RATTLE...
カラ...
OOOHH, I'M SO SORRY... I'M SO SORRY, YUZAN...
CRAWL...
オオオ
THERE, THERE. AS LONG AS YOU UNDER-STAND.
OOOHHH...
OOO-OHHH... HE'S SO CUTE...
CHILL
ゾクゾク

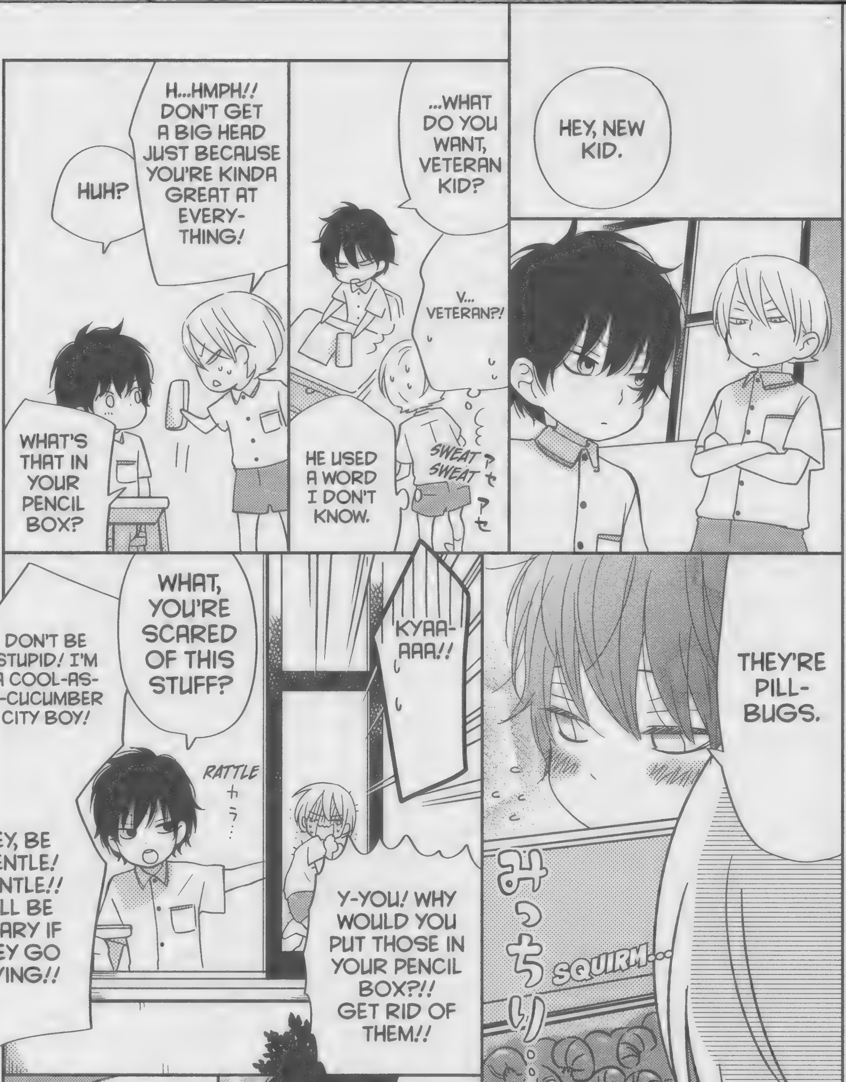
YOUNG BROTHERS, PART 2


HARU, AGE FIVE. HAS FOUND A LOST PUPPY.
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE CARE OF HIM!
GO PUT HIM BACK WHERE YOU FOUND HIM!
HEFF HEFF HEFF
FINE! I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM MYSELF!
SULK
HEFF HEFF HEFF
YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T DO THAT! HOW WILL YOU FEED HIM?
HARPOON →
WE CAN EAT THE GRASS, TOO!
CRACKLE CRACKLE
パチ パチ
OH, NO... HARU'S DEVOLVING INTO A WILD MAN.
I'LL HAVE TO TAKE HIM HOME AND TAME HIM.
WORRY WORRY

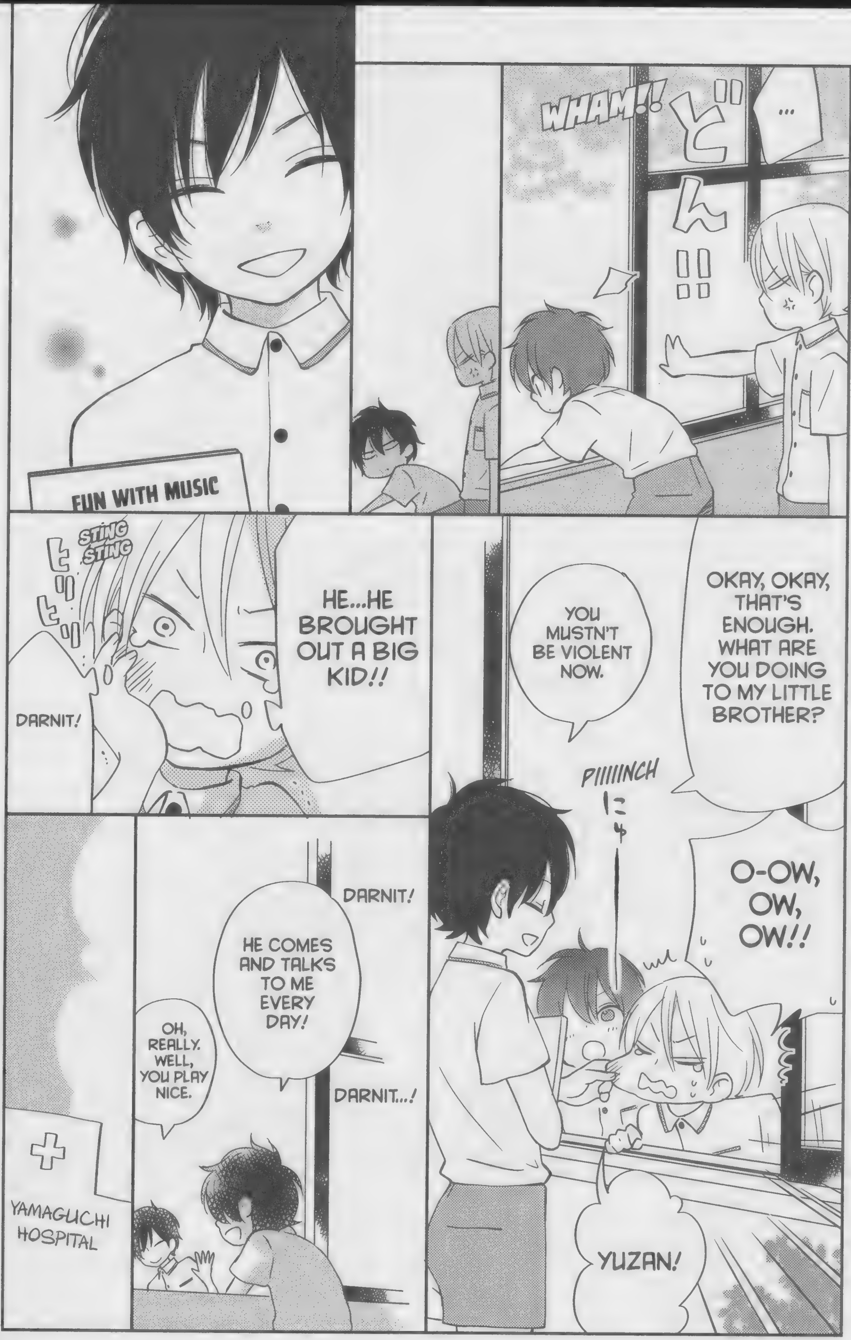
★ END OF VOLUME BONUS MANGA ★

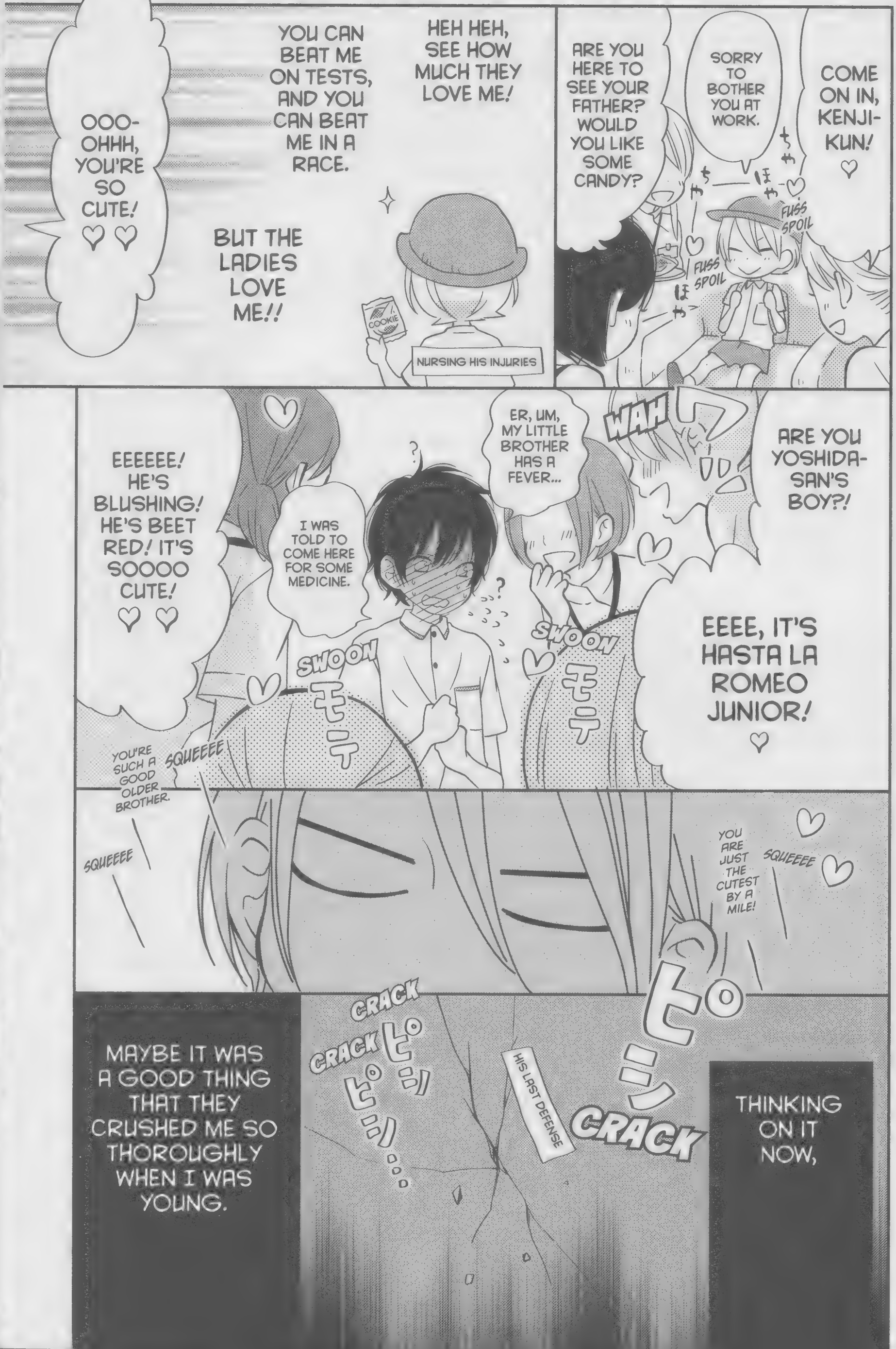
KENJI AND HARU


TRANSFER STUDENT: HARU YOSHIDA
I HAVE A NEW FRIEND TO INTRODUCE TO ALL OF YOU TODAY.
EVER SINCE THAT WEIRD KID TRANSFERRED IN AND TOOK THE SEAT NEXT TO ME,
THINGS HAVE STOPPED GOING WELL FOR ME.
TESTS.
100
98
RACES.
1
2
YOSHIDA
YAMAGU
ARTS AND CRA
CLAY ANIMALS
YOSHIDA BEAR
YAMAGUCHI RABBIT
OKAY.
TIME FOR SOME HARASSMENT.

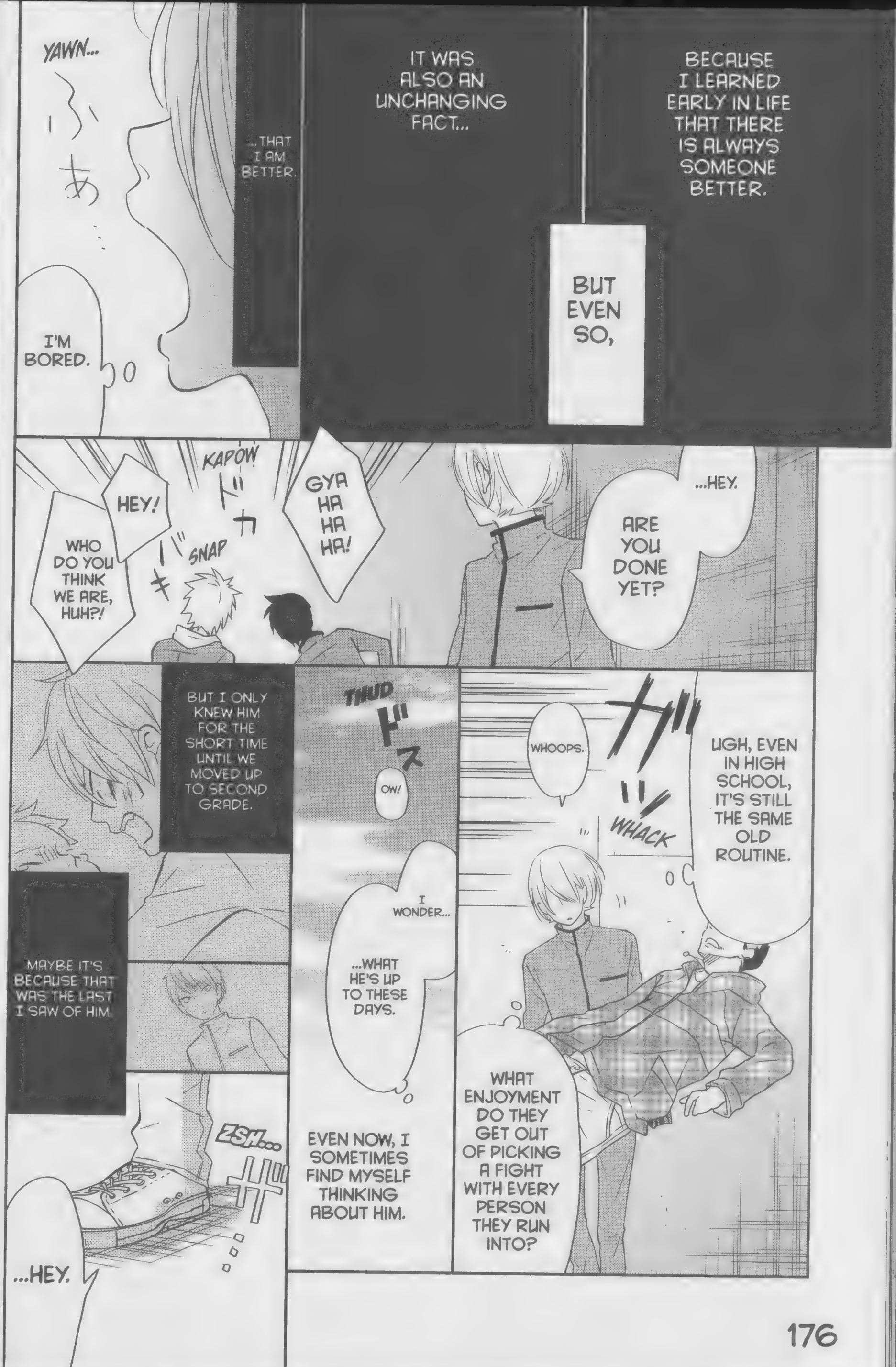

HEY, NEW KID.
...WHAT DO YOU WANT, VETERAN KID?
V... VETERAN?!
SWEAT SWEAT
アセアセ
HE USED A WORD I DON'T KNOW.
H...HMPH!! DON'T GET A BIG HEAD JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE KINDA GREAT AT EVERYTHING!
HUH?
WHAT'S THAT IN YOUR PENCIL BOX?
THEY'RE PILL-BUGS.
みっちり
SQUIRM...
KYAAAAA!!
Y-YOU! WHY WOULD YOU PUT THOSE IN YOUR PENCIL BOX?!! GET RID OF THEM!!
WHAT, YOU'RE SCARED OF THIS STUFF?
DON'T BE STUPID! I'M A COOL-AS-A-CUCUMBER CITY BOY!
RATTLE
カラ...
HEY, BE GENTLE! GENTLE!! IT'LL BE SCARY IF THEY GO FLYING!!
PILL-BUGS? FLYING?
ZSHH
WHAT A DORK.

ARTS AN
CLAY A
TIME FO
SOME
HARAS
MENT.

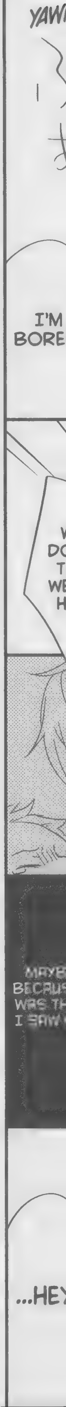

...
WHAM!!
どん!!
FUN WITH MUSIC
OKAY, OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH. WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY LITTLE BROTHER?
YOU MUSTN'T BE VIOLENT NOW.
HE...HE BROUGHT OUT A BIG KID!!
STING STING
ヒリヒリ
DARNIT!
PIIIIINCH
にゅ
O-OW, OW, OW!!
YUZAN!
DARNIT!
HE COMES AND TALKS TO ME EVERY DAY!
DARNIT...!
OH, REALLY. WELL, YOU PLAY NICE.
YAMAGUCHI HOSPITAL

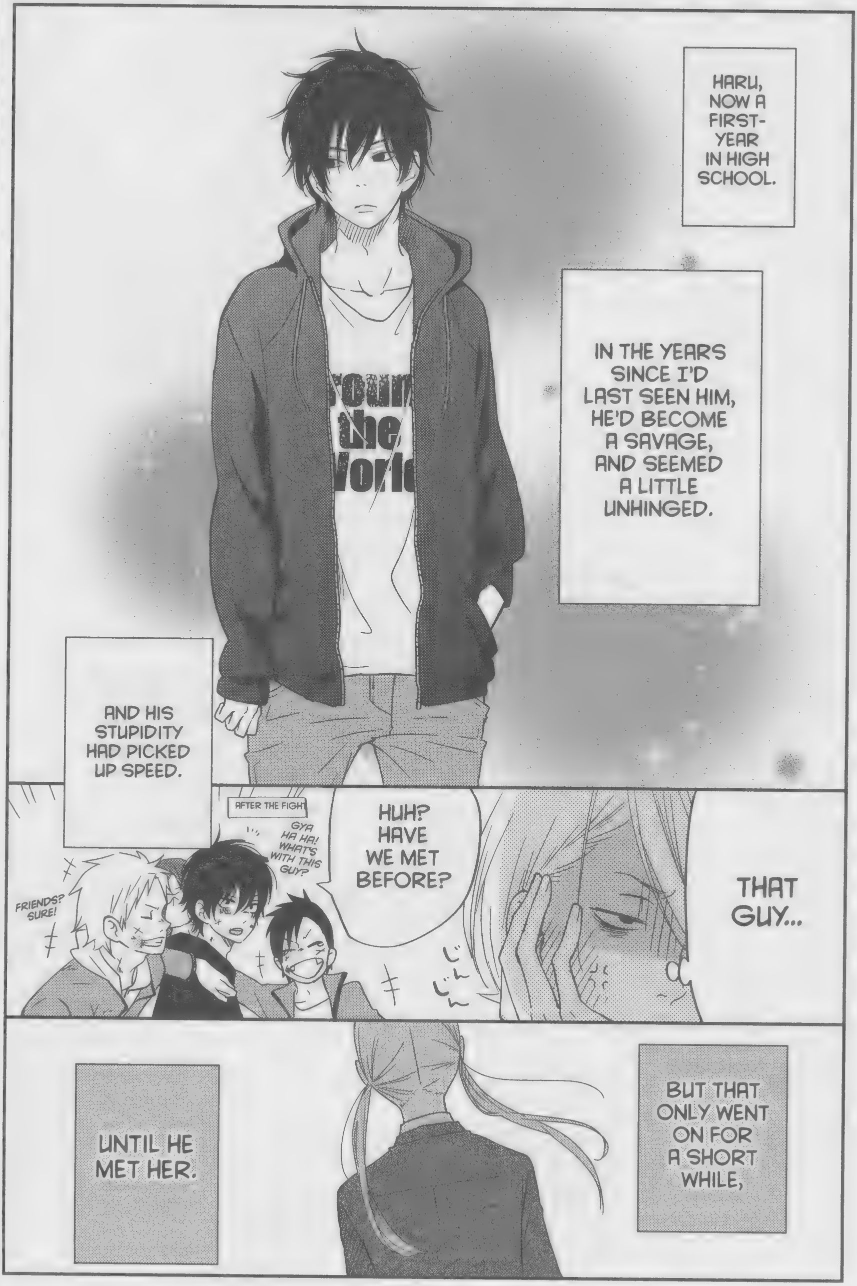

COME ON IN, KENJI-KUN! ♡
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU AT WORK.
ARE YOU HERE TO SEE YOUR FATHER? WOULD YOU LIKE SOME CANDY?
ちや ほや
FUSS SPOIL
ちや ほや
FUSS SPOIL
HEH HEH, SEE HOW MUCH THEY LOVE ME!
YOU CAN BEAT ME ON TESTS, AND YOU CAN BEAT ME IN A RACE.
BUT THE LADIES LOVE ME!!
COOKIE
NURSING HIS INJURIES
OOO-OHHH, YOU'RE SO CUTE! ♡ ♡
ARE YOU YOSHIDA-SAN'S BOY?!
WAH
ER, UM, MY LITTLE BROTHER HAS A FEVER...
I WAS TOLD TO COME HERE FOR SOME MEDICINE.
EEEEEE! HE'S BLUSHING! HE'S BEET RED! IT'S SOOOO CUTE! ♡ ♡
EEEE, IT'S HASTA LA ROMEO JUNIOR! ♡
SWOON モテ
SWOON モテ
YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD OLDER BROTHER.
SQUEEEE
YOU ARE JUST THE CUTEST BY A MILE!
SQUEEEE
SQUEEEE
THINKING ON IT NOW,
ピシッ
CRACK
HIS LAST DEFENSE
ピシッ
CRACK
CRACK
MAYBE IT WAS A GOOD THING THAT THEY CRUSHED ME SO THOROUGHLY WHEN I WAS YOUNG.

DARNIT


BECAUSE I LEARNED EARLY IN LIFE THAT THERE IS ALWAYS SOMEONE BETTER.
BUT EVEN SO,
IT WAS ALSO AN UNCHANGING FACT...
...THAT I AM BETTER.
YAWN...
ふあ...
I'M BORED.
...HEY.
ARE YOU DONE YET?
GYA HA HA HA!
KAPOW ドカ
HEY!
WHO DO YOU THINK WE ARE, HUH?!
SNAP バキ
UGH, EVEN IN HIGH SCHOOL, IT'S STILL THE SAME OLD ROUTINE.
ガッ WHACK
WHOOPS.
WHAT ENJOYMENT DO THEY GET OUT OF PICKING A FIGHT WITH EVERY PERSON THEY RUN INTO?
THUD ドス
OW!
I WONDER...
...WHAT HE'S UP TO THESE DAYS.
EVEN NOW, I SOMETIMES FIND MYSELF THINKING ABOUT HIM.
BUT I ONLY KNEW HIM FOR THE SHORT TIME UNTIL WE MOVED UP TO SECOND GRADE.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE THAT WAS THE LAST I SAW OF HIM.
ZSH... ザッ
...HEY.

WHO THREW THIS GUY?
HE CRASHED INTO ME.
AH?
...WHAT?
YOU'RE...
WAS IT YOU?
GWAH


YAWN
I'M BORE
W DO T WE H
MAYB BECAUS WAS TH I SAW
...HEY


HARU, NOW A FIRST-YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL.
IN THE YEARS SINCE I'D LAST SEEN HIM, HE'D BECOME A SAVAGE, AND SEEMED A LITTLE UNHINGED.
AND HIS STUPIDITY HAD PICKED UP SPEED.
THAT GUY...
じんじん
HUH? HAVE WE MET BEFORE?
AFTER THE FIGHT
GYA HA HA! WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?
FRIENDS? SURE!
BUT THAT ONLY WENT ON FOR A SHORT WHILE,
UNTIL HE MET HER.

COMMENT

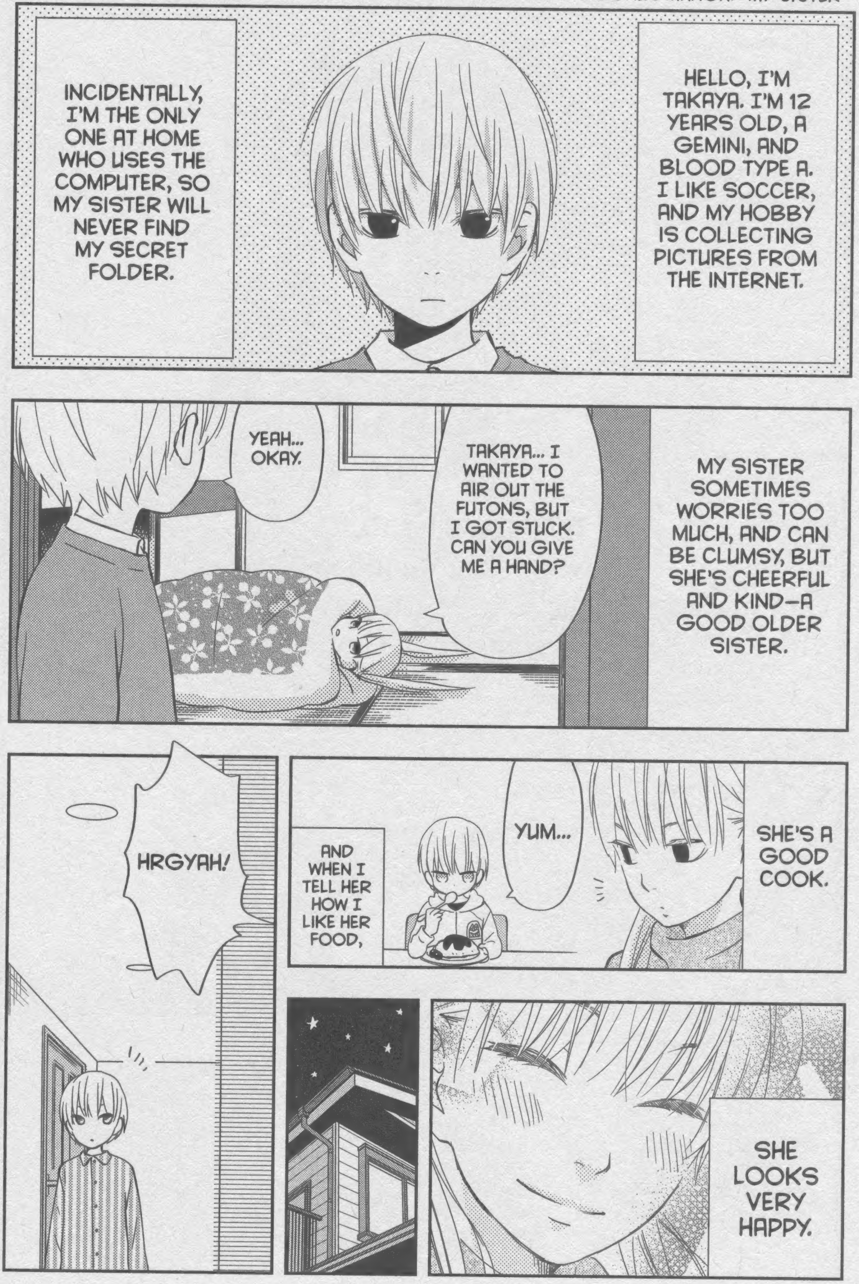
Robico

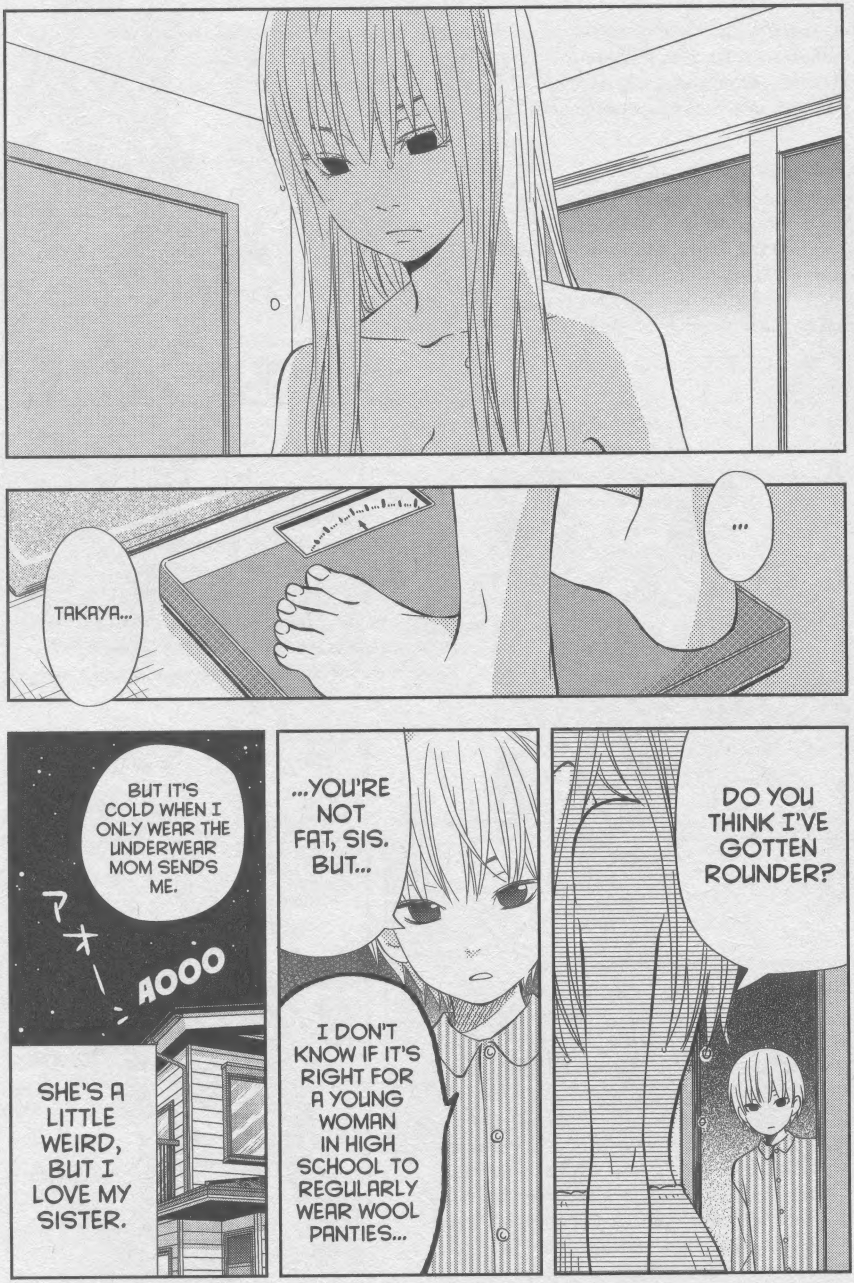
This is volume 10. It's like I woke up and suddenly the series is 10 volumes long. I'll do my best. I hope you enjoyed volume 10.

FRIENDS? SURE!

MY LITTLE MONSTER

UNDER-THE-SLIPCOVER SPECIAL BONUS MANGA: "MY SISTER"

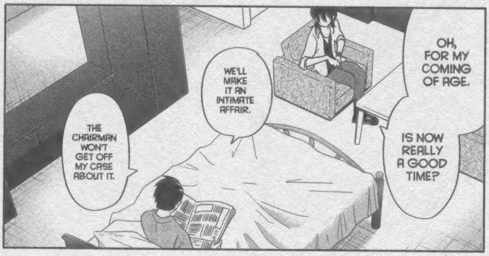

HELLO, I'M TAKAYA. I'M 12 YEARS OLD, A GEMINI, AND BLOOD TYPE A. I LIKE SOCCER, AND MY HOBBY IS COLLECTING PICTURES FROM THE INTERNET.
INCIDENTALLY, I'M THE ONLY ONE AT HOME WHO USES THE COMPUTER, SO MY SISTER WILL NEVER FIND MY SECRET FOLDER.
MY SISTER SOMETIMES WORRIES TOO MUCH, AND CAN BE CLUMSY, BUT SHE'S CHEERFUL AND KIND—A GOOD OLDER SISTER.
TAKAYA... I WANTED TO AIR OUT THE FUTONS, BUT I GOT STUCK. CAN YOU GIVE ME A HAND?
YEAH... OKAY.
SHE'S A GOOD COOK.
YUM...
AND WHEN I TELL HER HOW I LIKE HER FOOD,
SHE LOOKS VERY HAPPY.
HRGYAH!

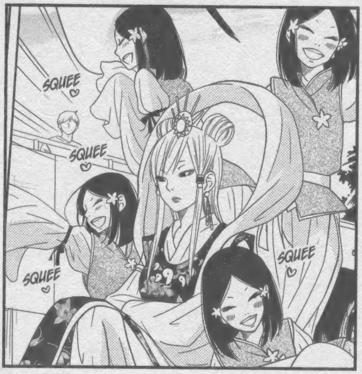

...
TAKAYA...
DO YOU THINK I'VE GOTTEN ROUNDER?
...YOU'RE NOT FAT, SIS. BUT...
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S RIGHT FOR A YOUNG WOMAN IN HIGH SCHOOL TO REGULARLY WEAR WOOL PANTIES...
BUT IT'S COLD WHEN I ONLY WEAR THE UNDERWEAR MOM SENDS ME.
アオー
AOOO
SHE'S A LITTLE WEIRD, BUT I LOVE MY SISTER.

My Little Monster 10 Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

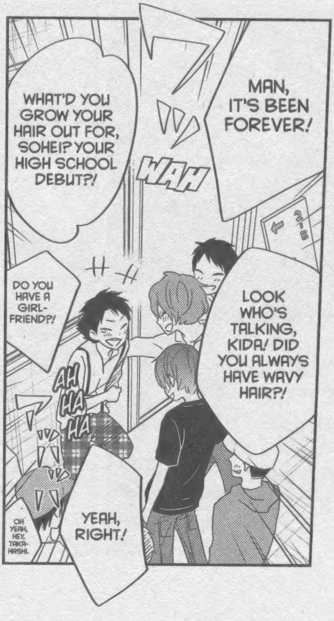
Coming of age, page 13
In Japan, a person legally reaches adulthood when he or she turns 20. Since it's such a big year, it is a cause for special celebration, and if Taizo Yoshida throws a party for his son, it can show the public that he is a family man after all.

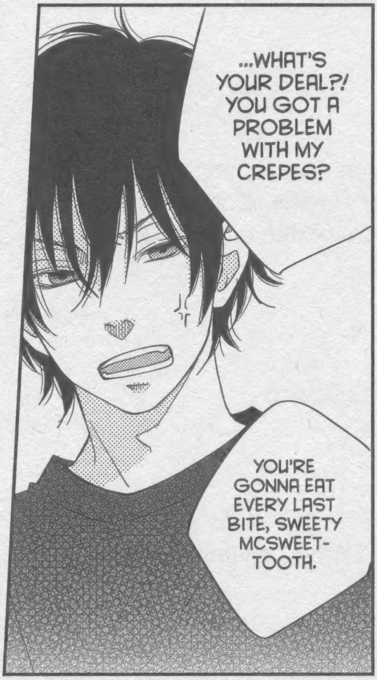

OH, FOR MY COMING OF AGE.
IS NOW REALLY A GOOD TIME?
WE'LL MAKE IT AN INTIMATE AFFAIR.
THE CHAIRMAN WON'T GET OFF MY CASE ABOUT IT.


SQUEE
SQUEE
SQUEE
SQUEE

The Cave of the Sun Goddess, page 57
Amano-Iwato, or "The Cave of the Sun Goddess", is a traditional tale from Japanese mythology. According to legend, Amaterasu, the Sun Goddess was harassed by Susano-O, the God of Storms, into hiding herself in a cave, thus bringing darkness to the world. The other gods lure her out of hiding with treasures and a party.

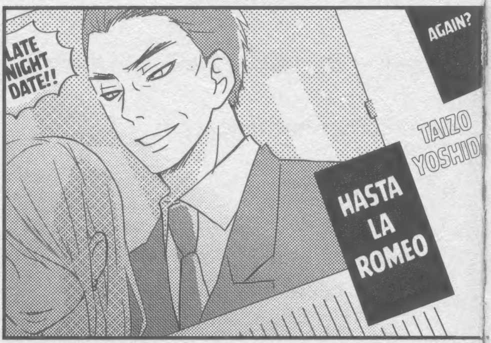
Sasayan's high school debut, page 66
The change from junior high to high school in Japan can be a very big one, because, instead of just going on to the local public high school, students can choose a high school from anywhere in the country—as long as they pass the required entrance exam. This makes it a good opportunity to make a new start, by changing your look, going to a school where know one knows you, etc. This is called a high school debut. But Sasayan doesn't answer the question, so the truth as to whether or not he wanted to make a high school debut remains a mystery.


MAN, IT'S BEEN FOREVER!
WAH
WHAT'D YOU GROW YOUR HAIR OUT FOR, SOHEI? YOUR HIGH SCHOOL DEBUT?!
2-B
LOOK WHO'S TALKING, KIDA! DID YOU ALWAYS HAVE WAVY HAIR?!
DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?!
AH HA HA HA
YEAH, RIGHT!
OH YEAH, HEY, TAKAHASHI.


...WHAT'S YOUR DEAL?! YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH MY CREPES?
YOU'RE GONNA EAT EVERY LAST BITE, SWEETY MCSWEET-TOOTH.

Sweety McSweet-tooth, page 70
As the reader may have guessed, this is not what Haru called Yuzan in the original Japanese text. He called him "suiitsu yaro", which translates to "sweets guy", but the translation doesn't pack the same punch as the intended nuance of the Japanese, so the translators attempted to make the insult more insulting.

Hasta la Romeo, page 129
Taizo Yoshida has earned himself a nickname that combines part of the word *tsuyadane* (love affair) with *otoko* (man). In other words, he is "scandal man". When the kanji characters are combined, they are pronounced ade-osu, or "adios". The translators attempted to retain the "goodbye" in his lady-killer nickname by rendering it as Hasta la Romeo


AGAIN?
TAIZO YOSHID
HASTA LA ROMEO
LATE NIGHT DATE!!

My Li

Japanes
than scie
the place
the work

Coming
In Japan,
adulthoo
it's such
celebrati
a party fo
that he is

Sasayar
The cha
Japan c
of just g
student
anywhe
the requ
opportu
your loc
knows y
But Sasa
truth as
high sch